

Australia's seismogenic neotectonic record

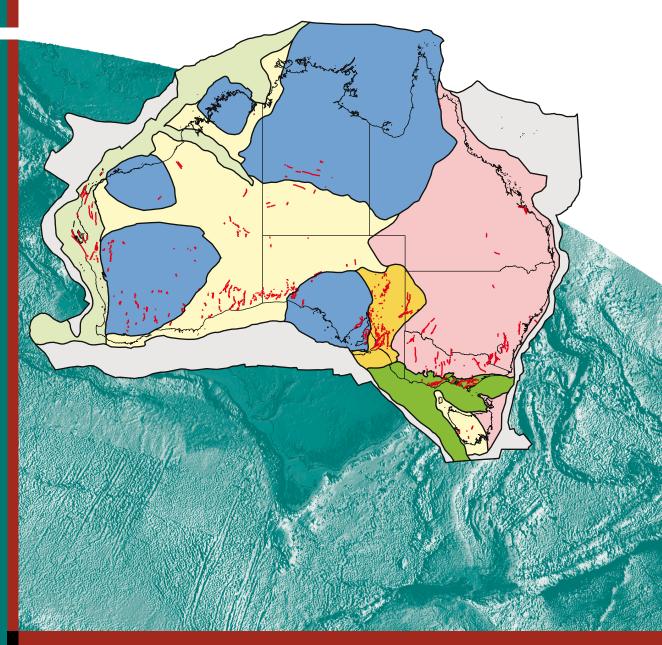
A case for heterogeneous intraplate deformation

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Australia's seismogenic neotectonic record: a case for heterogeneous intraplate deformation

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by

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Executive Summary

Australia's rich neotectonic record provides an opportunity to better understand the characteristics of seismogenic intraplate deformation, both at the scale of a single fault and at the scale of the entire continent. Over the last decade knowledge of Australian intraplate faults has advanced significantly. Herein we review this knowledge and propose six preliminary seismicity source zones (domains) based upon neotectonic data. Each source zone contains faults that we contend share common recurrence and behavioural characteristics, in a similar way that source zones are defined using the historic record of seismicity. A seventh offshore domain is proposed based upon analogy with the eastern United States. The power of this domain approach lies in the ability to extrapolate characteristic behaviours from well-characterised faults (few) to faults about which little is known (many), both nationally and to analogous regions elsewhere in the world. These data, and conceptual and numerical models describing the nature of the seismicity in each source zone, have the potential to significantly enhance our understanding of seismic hazard in Australia at a longer time scale than the snapshot provided by the historic record of seismicity. This includes providing a means by which to estimate key parameters underpinning the next generation seismic hazard maps for Australia, such as maximum magnitude earthquake and seismic source zone b values.

Kev Words:

Seismic hazard, intraplate, neotectonics, maximum magnitude earthquake

Introduction

Australia is considered to be a Stable Continental Region (SCR) in terms of its plate tectonic setting and seismicity (Johnston et al. 1994). While such settings produce only approximately 0.2% of the world's seismic moment release, large and potentially damaging earthquakes are not uncommon (e.g. Crone et al. 1997). Five earthquakes sufficiently large to rupture the Earth's surface are documented in Australia in the last four decades (Figure 1) - 1968 Meckering (Gordon & Lewis 1980); 1970 Calingiri (Gordon & Lewis 1980); 1979 Cadoux (Lewis et al. 1981); 1986 Marryat Creek (Machette et al. 1993; Crone et al. 1997); 1988 Tennant Creek (Crone et al. 1992, 1997). Low strain accumulation and release rates in SCRs relative to plate margin regions suggest that the recurrence of large earthquakes on individual faults is typically thousands to hundreds of thousands of years or more (e.g. Adams et al. 1991; Crone et al. 1997; Clark & Leonard 2003; Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a; Clark et al. 2010) (Figure 2). A notable exception is the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in the central United States where the recurrence of M>7 events for the last three seismic cycles, reportedly on one of several faults responsible for the 1811-1812 earthquakes (the Reelfoot Fault, Van Arsdale et al. 1998; Guccione et al. 1999; Champion et al. 2001), has been five hundred years on average (e.g. Tuttle et al. 2002; Tuttle et al. 2005). While palaeo-liquefaction investigations of the Charleston seismic zone in South Carolina (Talwani & Schaeffer 2001) and Charlevoix (Tuttle & Atkinson 2010) seismic zone in southeastern Quebec also suggest a recurrence of large earthquakes on the order of several hundred to several thousand years, such studies are not fault-specific (e.g. Obermeier et al. 1992). Similarly, frequent recurrence of damaging ground shaking in the Kachchh rift region of northwest India has been attributed to earthquake activity on several faults (e.g. Bhatt et al. 2009), potentially strongly influenced by the ~400 km distant Eurasian/Indian plate margin (Stein et al. 2001; Shulte & Mooney 2005). An association was proposed between extended continental crust (failed rifts and passive margins) and the heightened intraplate earthquake activity that might give rise to this remarkable moment release (Johnston et al. 1994; Gangopadhyay & Talwani 2003), but analysis of an updated catalogue later showed this to lack statistical significance, at least for the historic period (Shulte & Mooney 2005). In the case of Peninsular India, Vita-Finzi (2004) proposes that lithospheric-wavelength buckles relating to stresses arising in the Himalayan Orogen influence the localisation of seismicity. A link with seismicity has not been demonstrated in other continents where similar lithospheric buckling is apparent (e.g. Cloetingh et al. 2005; Sandiford & Quigley 2009).

The few palaeoseismological studies of SCR faults suggest that periods of activity are often separated by much longer periods of quiescence (Crone & Luza 1990; Crone & Machette 1997; Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2007; Clark et al. 2008a) (Figure 2). For example, the Hyden Fault in southwestern Australia has experienced three surface-rupturing earthquakes in the last 100 ka (Clark et al. 2008a), yet prior events are estimated to have occurred hundreds of thousands to a million years or more ago (Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a). Data and modelling from elsewhere in the world identify similar behaviour on faults with low slip rates (e.g. Wallace 1987; Ritz et al. 1995; Marco et al. 1996; Friedrich et al. 2003) and suggest that the time between successive clusters of events is highly variable but significantly longer than the times between successive earthquakes within an active phase (e.g. Marco et al. 1996; Stein et al. 1997; Chéry et al. 2001; Chéry & Vernant 2006; Li et al. 2009). This behaviour poses particular problems for seismic hazard assessment in that it implies that recurrence of large earthquakes is not random (Poissonian) as is implicitly assumed in most probabilistic seismic hazard assessment methods (e.g. Frankel et al. 1996; Stirling et al. 2002b). In addition, it has been proposed that many of the earthquakes comprising the short historic record of plate interiors, which are used to assess seismic hazard for these regions, are aftershocks of large earthquakes that occurred hundreds of years previously (Stein & Liu 2009).

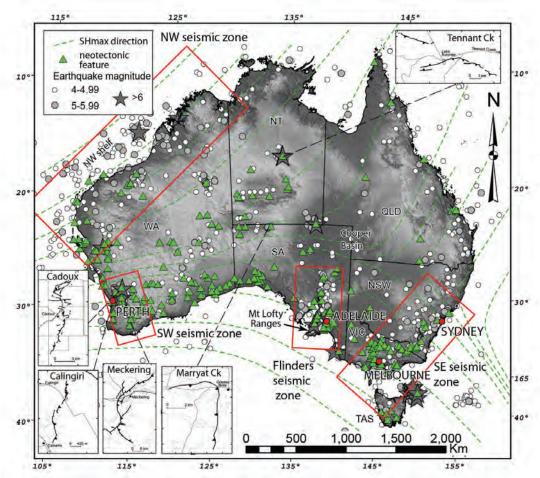


Figure 1 – Shaded relief map of Australia showing locations and magnitudes of historic seismicity (M>4), locations of seismic zones (Hillis et al. 2008; Leonard 2008), traces for the five historic surface ruptures, (Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981; Crone et al. 1997), locations of known and suspected neotectonic features (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data), and maximum horizontal stress vectors (Hillis & Reynolds 2000; Hillis & Reynolds 2003). Red dots mark the major southern Australian population centres of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

In general, Australia is under-explored in terms of its neotectonic and paleoseismic record (cf. Sandiford 2003b; Quigley et al. 2006; Hillis et al. 2008; Sandiford et al. 2009; Sandiford & Quigley 2009; Quigley et al. 2010). As a consequence, important conclusions regarding the level of earthquake hazard Australia-wide, and the earthquake activity of specific faults, are often based on comparisons with presumably similar crust or faults elsewhere in Australia and/or elsewhere in the world. However, over the last decade a significant body of new information has become available regarding seismogenic neotectonic faulting in Australia. In the sections of the manuscript that follow we describe the characteristics of seismogenic neotectonic faulting in Australia, and present a region by region compilation of such deformation. This report constitutes the most thorough characterisation of seismogenic neotectonic deformation available for Australia, and is a vital step towards assessing the validity of using fault data from one region to characterise fault behaviour in another. Furthermore, the data compiled here may be used to define earthquake source parameters, such as maximum magnitude earthquake, that are not accessible from the instrumental catalogue of seismicity. A comparison of the earthquake recurrence behaviour of seismogenic neotectonic faults in Australia with other SCR faults worldwide serves as a guide for analogue studies.

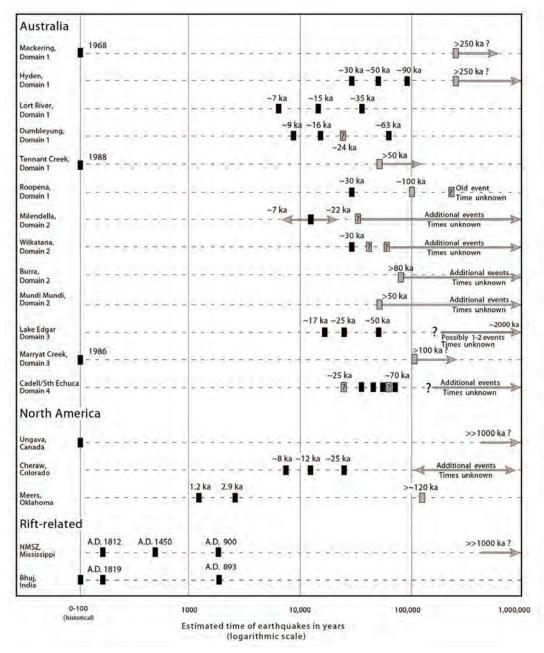


Figure 2 – Compilation of surface-breaking earthquake recurrence data for SCR settings (expanded after Crone et al. (2003)). Lort River and Dumbleyung data from Estrada (2009), Wilkatana, Burra and Mundi Mundi data from Quigley et al. (2006), Lake Edgar data from Clark et al. (2011) and Cadell data from Clark et al. (2007). Domains are as presented in Figure 33.

THE NEOTECTONIC ERA IN AUSTRALIA

In this contribution two terms that are used repeatedly require careful definition. A 'neotectonic fault' is defined as a fault that has hosted displacement under conditions imposed by the current Australian crustal stress regime, and hence may move again in the future. Similarly, 'neotectonic displacement/deformation' is defined as displacement/deformation under conditions imposed by the current crustal stress regime. These definitions recognise, after Machette (2000), that assigning an 'active/inactive' label to a fault in a slowly deforming area based upon the occurrence (or non-occurrence) of an event in the last few thousands to tens of thousands of years is not a useful indicator of future seismic potential.

There is structural and sedimentary evidence in southeast Australian basins which suggests that the current crustal stress regime was established during the interval 10-5 Ma (e.g. Dickinson *et al.* 2001; Dickinson *et al.* 2002; Sandiford 2003b, a; Sandiford *et al.* 2004; Hillis *et al.* 2008). This evidence includes a major unconformity related to substantial regional-scale tilting, uplifting, folding and reverse faulting of Late Miocene and older strata occurs in all southeast Australian basins (e.g. Gippsland and Otway Basins). Pliocene and Quaternary strata overlying the unconformity contain neotectonic structures yielding palaeo-stress indicators consistent with the current *in situ* stress field, as determined from seismicity and down-hole stress determination techniques (e.g. Hillis & Reynolds 2000; Hillis & Reynolds 2003; Hillis *et al.* 2008).

The most significant neotectonic deformation consistent with contemporary stress trends plate-wide is thought to have occurred during the Late Miocene (ca. 10-5 Ma) transitional period between stress regimes, followed by ongoing deformation, potentially at a lower bulk strain rate (Sandiford et al. 2004; Hillis et al. 2008). This Late Miocene reorganisation coincides temporally with significant changes at the Australian Plate margins (Dyksterhuis & Müller 2008; Hillis et al. 2008), including the onset of mountain building in the New Zealand Southern Alps (Sutherland 1996; Walcott 1998) and in Papua New Guinea (Packham 1996; Hill & Raza 1999; Hill & Hall 2003). Keep et al. (2002) recognise the same deformation event in the Timor Sea, correlating it to the main compression phase in Papua New Guinea (Hill & Raza 1999) and a proposed collision between a micro-continental fragment and the Banda Arc (Richardson & Blundell 1996). The authors relate this collision to reactivation of structures in the Carnarvon Basin on the North West Shelf and the Cooper-Eromanga Basin in central eastern Australia (c.f. Etheridge et al. 1991). A locally more intense event in the Timor Sea at ca. 3 Ma is proposed to reflect collision of the Australian and Eurasian plates (Packham 1996; Keep et al. 2002). Deformation structures relating to this Pliocene event have not been documented elsewhere in the Australian Plate.

Although local sources of stress cannot be everywhere precluded (e.g. Dentith & Featherstone 2003), the neotectonic data presented in this report suggest that ongoing deformation within the Australian Plate is primarily a response to distant plate boundary interactions (Sandiford *et al.* 2004; Hillis *et al.* 2008). Indeed, the current intraplate stress condition has been satisfactorily modelled in terms of plate boundary forces in combination with mantle basal tractions (Coblentz *et al.* 1995; Coblentz *et al.* 1998; Reynolds *et al.* 2003; Burbidge 2004; Dyksterhuis & Müller 2008).

SEISMOGENIC DEFORMATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN SCR CRUST

There is abundant evidence for ongoing deformation of the Australian crust in the catalogue of historic earthquakes maintained by Geoscience Australia (http://www.ga.gov.au/earthquakes/searchQuake.do). A simple visual examination of the spatial distribution of earthquake epicentres suggests that deformation of the Australian crust is markedly heterogeneous (Figure 1), at least over the short timeframe captured by the historic record (Hillis et al. 2008; Leonard 2008). There is a concentration of epicentres along a N-S axis in the Mt Lofty and Flinders Ranges in South Australia, and diffuse clusters in northwest Australia (NW seismic zone) and the southeast Australian highlands (SE seismic zone). Even more sparsely distributed epicentres in the west of Australia are punctuated by 'hotspots' of activity that closely correlate to the five historic surface rupturing earthquake events (i.e. those in the Southwest Seismic Zone (Doyle 1971b), Tennant Creek (Crone et al. 1992) and Marryat Creek (Machette et al. 1991)). Other hotspots may represent prolonged aftershock sequences relating to pre-historic large earthquake events (Li et al. 2009). In contrast, some areas, such as much of Queensland, are devoid of significant concentrations of historic seismicity.

The vast majority of earthquakes reported in the historic catalogue are of small magnitude (99.2% are $M_W < 5$) and so could be expected to contribute negligibly to the overall moment budget for the continent, especially if a number of concentrations relate to aftershock sequences. Hence, it is unclear how much this snapshot of deformation (i.e. seismicity) reveals about patterns of neotectonic deformation. For example, one of the highest historic concentrations of seismicity occurs in the Southwest Seismic Zone of Western Australia (Figure 1), in a region of low and subdued topography and very low erosion rates (e.g. Chappell 2006). Long term continuation of the moment release that has occurred in the last 40 years, estimated to correspond to E-W shortening at a strain rate of between 0.15-1.6 mm/yr (Leonard 2008), and which involved three surface rupturing earthquakes (Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981), is clearly inconsistent with the landscape. So, while the historic record of seismicity might provide a guide to the areas of the continent which are accommodating seismogenic deformation now, we must turn to the neotectonic record to learn how the Australian crust has accommodated strain over the neotectonic era. Fortunately, where environmental conditions are conducive to their preservation, the larger events that might be expected to contribute significantly to the moment budget appear to leave an enduring footprint in the landscape (e.g. Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981; Machette et al. 1991; Clark & McCue 2003; Crone et al. 2003; Sandiford 2003b, a; Quigley et al. 2006; Quigley et al. 2007a; Clark et al. 2008a; Clark 2009).

Australia's seismogenic neotectonic record

At least three distinct modes of neotectonic surface deformation are evident in the Australian landscape (Sandiford 2007; Sandiford et al. 2009; Sandiford & Quigley 2009). At long wavelengths (several 1000's of km), systematic variations in the extent of Neogene marine inundation imply the continent has tilted north-down, southwest-up (Sandiford 2007). This is most convincingly seen along the southern Australian margin, where Miocene limestone of the Nullarbor Plain has been uplifted and subjected to marine erosion to form iconic cliffs. At intermediate-wavelengths (several 100's of km) several undulations of ~100-200 m amplitude have developed on the 1-10 Ma timescale, consistent with the buckling amplitude of the lithosphere. In the most notable case, Celerier et al. (2005) report that the pattern of deformation of the Flinders Ranges and the surrounding basins such as the Torrens and Frome Basins includes an undulation of several hundred metres amplitude over about 200 km between the basins bounding the ranges. The absence of any marine sediment in the Torrens Basin, which is now separated from the sea by a sill only ~30 m above sea level, implies that this undulation must have developed in the late Neogene, and probably since the early Pliocene, and includes absolute subsidence of the basins (Quigley et al. 2007c). In two other prominent cases, the Lake Mackay palaeo-drainage is now internally draining in its northern reaches, and palaeo-lake Billa Kalina now sits high on a watershed (Sandiford & Quigley 2009). At still shorter wavelengths (several 10's of km), fault related motion has produced local relief at rates of up to ~100 m/Myr over a period of several million years (Sandiford & Quigley 2009). For example, Sandiford (2003b) and Quigley et al. (2006) suggest that 30-50% of the present-day elevation of the Flinders Ranges relative to adjacent piedmonts has developed in the last 5 Ma. Uplifted Pliocene strandlines on the western flank of the Otway Ranges suggest a similar proportion of neotectonic uplift (Sandiford 2003a).

Continental tilting is thought to operate at a wavelength larger than would induce bending stresses in the crust sufficient to result in seismicity (Mike Sandiford, personal communication, 2007). Furthermore, the orientation and compressive nature of the crustal stress field is inconsistent with any such relationship (Hillis & Reynolds 2003) (Figure 1). It is possible that the concentration of

seismicity associated with the Flinders Ranges may be associated in some way with the Flinders Ranges "buckle" (Celerier et al. 2005). For example, Vita-Finzi (2004) proposes that lithospheric-wavelength buckles relating to stresses arising in the Himalayan Orogen influence the localisation of seismicity in Peninsula India, thousands of kilometres to the south. However, it is not clear if the buckle, or the abundance of neotectonic faults is the dominant driver for seismicity in this region. Contemporary seismicity does not appear to be associated with the other lithospheric-wavelength buckles known from Australia (Sandiford et al. 2009; Sandiford & Quigley 2009).

In contrast, there is very good evidence to suggest that the third mode of deformation (several 10's of km wavelength or less) is associated with seismicity. Most compelling is that the majority of features catalogued in the neotectonics database (Appendix Table 1) share geomophological characteristics with the scarps generated during the five known historic surface breaking earthquakes (cf. Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981; Crone et al. 1997). In particular, neotectonic features assigned a confidence value of A and B are typically associated with significant drainage modifications, such as ponding, channel oversteepening, diversion or incision and terrace formation. While aseismic creep might plausible explain the formation of some features, and has been proposed to account for vertical changes in topographic levelling profiles across moderately active intraplate normal faults proximal to the European Cenozoic Rift System in Belgium (Demoulin 2004), such behaviour has not been reported from any other SCR setting. Where features in Australia and the United States have been trenched (confidence Level A in the respective databases), clean fault dislocations of fluvial and colluvial strata (e.g. Crone & Luza 1990; Crone et al. 1997; Crone et al. 2003; Quigley et al. 2006; Estrada 2009), gravity deposits in colluvial wedges indicative of the former existence of a free face (e.g. Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a), and in one instance fluvial terrace deposits at different elevations but of the same age (Clark et al. 2011), suggest that scarps relate to geologically instantaneous events rather than aseismic creep. In regions of Australia where neotectonic folding is prevalent (e.g. the Carnarvon, Otway, Murray and Gippsland Basins), seismic data suggests that folds are underlain by faults at depth (e.g. Malcolm et al. 1991; Williamson et al. 1991; Hill et al. 1994; Perincek & Cockshell 1995; Clark et al. 2007). The folding deformation documented in the neotectonic database might therefore be reasonably associated with multiple discrete fault displacements, and hence earthquakes. Based upon this evidence, we propose that the features catalogued in the neotectonics database reflect a long-term seismogenic record that might be mined for magnitude and recurrence information related to the largest of Australia's earthquakes.

Quantitative estimates of land-surface erosion, based upon a combination of apatite fission track and cosmogenic radionuclide methods, indicate that the notion of long-term (i.e. Era-scale) tectonic and geomorphic stability for the Australian SCR is not tenable (Belton et al. 2004). Erosion rates derived from cosmogenic 10Be abundances obtained in geographically dispersed sediments and resistant lithologies are ubiquitously non-zero: low relief regions of the western two thirds of Australia are characterised by erosion rates of 0.2-5 m/Ma (Bierman & Caffee 2002; Belton et al. 2004; Fujioka et al. 2005; Chappell 2006; Quigley et al. 2010), higher relief areas of eastern Australia by rates of up to 30-50 m/Ma (Weissel & Seidl 1998; Heimsath et al. 2000, 2001; Wilkinson et al. 2005; Tomkins et al. 2007), and those in the Flinders Ranges by rates locally up to 122 m/Ma, but averaging around 40 m/Ma (Bierman & Caffee 2002; Chappell 2006; Quigley et al. 2007a; Quigley et al. 2007b). In general, erosion rates appear to correlate primarily with regional relief, and at second order to local relief. In the case of the Flinders Ranges, anomalously high bedrock erosion rates have been linked to relief and to neotectonism, and correlate negatively with climate (Quigley et al. 2007a; Quigley et al. 2007b). The first order topographic control on erosion rates implies that fault scarps, the footprint of seismic events, might be recognisable in the landscape for hundreds of thousands of years or more in central and western Australia, but only for several tens of thousands of years to a hundred thousands years in the Flinders Ranges and eastern Australia. In

regions with extremely low erosion rates, such as on the Nullarbor Plain, it has been claimed that a seismic record spanning the last 15 Ma has been preserved essentially intact (Hillis et al. 2008). Indirect evidence for tectonic uplift, such as enhanced rates of erosion (Quigley et al. 2007a), and deformation of fossil planation surfaces and bedrock-sediment interfaces (Celerier et al. 2005; Quigley et al. 2007c; Quigley et al. 2010) can be significantly more long-lived, sometimes surviving the entire neotectonic era.

The inventory of neotectonic features, especially where catalogued on the basis of visibility in remotely sensed datasets (e.g. Digital Elevation Models - DEMs) is hence heterogeneous in terms of completeness and biased to regions with better data coverage (e.g. Clark 2010). Despite being far from complete, the neotectonic record provides a longer, richer and more robust measure of long-term deformation of the Australian SCR crust than that presented by the historic record of seismicity. Below we present a compilation of potential and confirmed neotectonic features known from across Australia considered approximately in relation to the zones of historic seismicity defined by Hillis (2008) and Leonard (2008) (Figure 1). A summary table of this data, including confidence ratings is provided in Appendix Table 1.

WESTERN AND CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

The arid and semi-arid regions of western and central Australia are characterised by generally low relief and undulating topography. Inselbergs and typically low, rounded ranges of resistant rock locally punctuate the landscape (e.g. Mount Augustus in Western Australia, the MacDonnell Ranges in central Australia). Erosion rates determined from cosmogenically derived ¹⁰Be abundances are often significantly less than 5 m/Ma (Bierman & Caffee 2002; Belton *et al.* 2004; Fujioka *et al.* 2005; Chappell 2006; Quigley *et al.* 2010). Hence, there is the potential for long-term preservation of seismic topography in the landscape. The longevity and/or discoverability of such relief is, however, diminished in regions where dunes have been active in glacial times (e.g. Rhodes *et al.* 2005; Fitzsimmons *et al.* 2009), and where thick, easily erodable regolith blankets the landscape.

A number of fault scarps have been the subject of palaeoseismological investigation in western and central Australia (Figures 2 and 3). These include Meckering (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data, Figures 4 and 5), Dumbleyung and Lort River (Estrada 2009), Hyden (Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a), Tennant Creek (Crone et al. 1992, 1997) and Marryat Creek (Machette et al. 1991). A potentially historic pair of surface ruptures has been mapped in detail near Mt Narryer (Williams 1979), while surface deformation relating to a modern rupture has been documented near Katanning using interferometric synthetic aperture radar (Dawson et al. 2008). More than fifty additional features with topographic characteristics similar to the known fault scarps have been identified in digital elevation data (Clark 2010). Twenty one of these have been the subject of ground reconnaissance and were found to exhibit characteristics consistent with recent tectonic displacement (e.g. drainage diversion, disruption or impedance, disturbed Quaternary sedimentary deposits, enhanced local slope erosion, etc.).

Although this part of the continent has produced some of Australia's largest recorded earthquakes and the largest moment release (Leonard 2008; Braun *et al.* 2009), the only structural feature with appreciable relief is the Darling Fault scarp, which is historically aseismic and has no published evidence for Quaternary displacement (e.g. Wyrwoll 2003; Sandiford & Egholm 2008). Erosion rates determined from cosmogenically derived ¹⁰Be abundances from the scarp face, summit surfaces and streams incising the scarp are inconsistent with significant Neogene tectonic activity (Jakica *et al.* 2010; Quigley *et al.* 2010). An east-facing, 1.5 m high and 19 km long scarp extending south from Serpentine along the foot of the Darling Range is evident in 10 m resolution DEM data

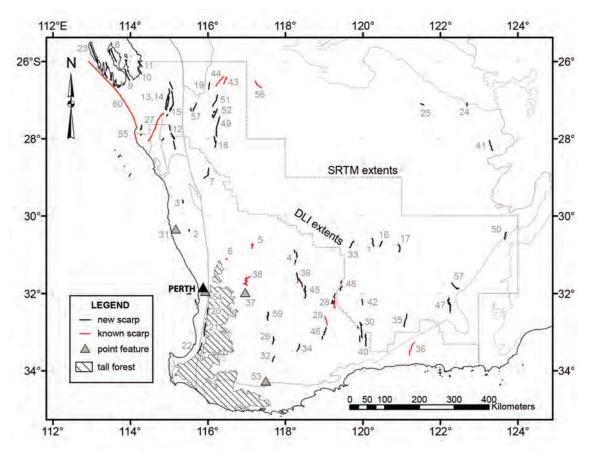


Figure 3 – Scarps identified in southwest western Australia using high resolution DEM data (after Clark 2010). Those scarps that have been visited in the field appear to be related to surface rupturing earthquakes. It might be expected that a similar density and distribution of scarps extends beyond the coverage of high resolution data.

(Clark 2010) and may represent a minor reactivation of the Darling Fault. However, a backhoe trench across the apparent scarp failed to identify discrete fault traces or any material suitable for dating the landform (Geoscience Australia, unpublished report).

Faults with demonstrated Quaternary displacement, including the Meckering, Calingiri, Cadoux, Hyden, Lort River, Dumbleyung and Mt Narryer faults, are associated with discrete scarps up to 40 km long and less than 5 m high (Williams 1979; Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981; Crone et al. 2003; Twidale & Bourne 2004; Clark et al. 2008a; Estrada 2009). In cases where early or pre-Neogene units were exposed in trench excavations (e.g. Meckering, Lort River, Hyden), the total vertical neotectonic displacement across these units appears to be significantly less than 10 m. Trench excavations across the recently discovered Dumbleyung Fault (Clark 2005; Clark 2010) and the Lort River Fault (Thom 1972; Clark & McCue 2003) reveal evidence for multiple surface ruptures in the last 100 ka (Estrada 2009), similar to that documented on the Hyden Fault scarp (Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a). In apparent contrast, excavations of the 1968 Meckering Fault scarp identified evidence for only the 1968 event and no prior surface ruptures during the preceding several hundred thousand years (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data) (Figures 4 and 5). The Meckering rupture is complex and exploits basement geology structures with three major intersecting trends (Dentith et al. 2009). It may therefore be mechanically difficult to reactivate slip planes due to locking at intersections (cf. Talwani 1988), with the result that consecutive ruptures might use nearby faults. Trenches excavated in the Mortlock River floodplain at a site where Gordon & Lewis (1980) reported that liquefaction had occurred during the 1968 Meckering earthquake failed to find unequivocal evidence for liquefaction produced as the result of the 1968

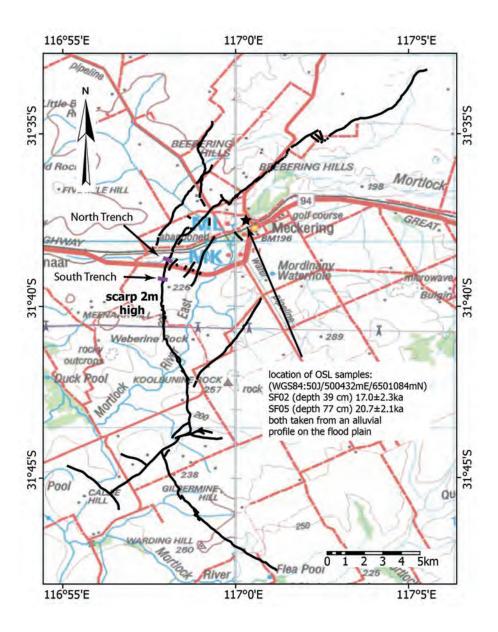
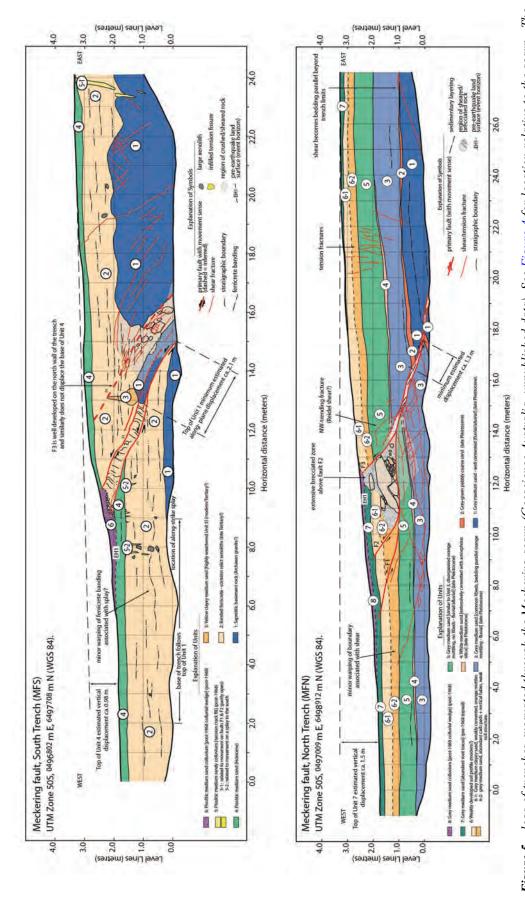


Figure 4 – Arcuate surface trace of the scarp relating to the 1968 M_s 6.8 Meckering Earthquake (Gordon & Lewis 1980) showing the location of trenches excavated in 2005 (logs presented in Figure 5). The scarp is 37 km long and up to 2 m high. See #38 on Figure 3 for scarp location. See Dentith et al. (2009) for relationship of scarp to underlying bedrock geology. OSL ages from Tuttle (2003) and unpublished Geoscience Australia data (see also Figure 6). Base map is 1:250,000 topography.



south trench was excavated on an upper slope exposing ferruginous duricrust, and the north trench on an alluvial flat. The northern trench strata record evidence Figure 5 – logs of trenches excavated through the Meckering scarp (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data). See Figure 4 for location relative to the scarp. The Duricrust in the southern trench bears evidence for a penultimate event for which all relief has been removed by erosion, suggestive of great antiquity (erosion rates for only the 1968 event. Sediments analogous to those exposed in the upper 1.0 m of the northern trench obtained OSL ages of $\sim 17-20$ ka (Figure 6, Tuttle (2003)). are likely to be $(5 \text{ m/Ma}, Belton et al. } (2004))$.

earthquake, but did find structures that may reflect prior nearby ruptures (Tuttle 2003) (Figure 6). Two generations of sand-filled features that superficially resemble root casts but share properties in common with liquefaction-induced sand dykes (e.g. fining of grainsize away from the "vent", and silt accumulations at "vent" margins) were present in the trenches. OSL dating of two soil samples collected in the trenches (sample SF02 and SF05, Figures 4 & 6) constrains the older sand sheet and "vent' to the interval *ca*. 17-20 ka, and the younger to *ca*. 0.15-17 ka (Olley 2004). Further research is required to prove an earthquake origin for these features.

Length and height data from 33 scarps identified in DEMs (Clark 2010) is consistent with the features studied in detail. Average scarp length is 26 km, with 90% of values less than 40 km in length. Average height (a proxy for vertical displacement) is 4 m with 90% of values less than 10 m. Relationships between scarp length and height (Wells & Coppersmith 1994) suggest single event displacements of up to 2 m for a rupture length of 40 km or less, with the implication that most of the scarps identified in DEM data are the result of more than one Quaternary surface rupturing event. Strain localisation is therefore a common characteristic of neotectonic faults in this part of the continent. However, the absence of evidence for ongoing fault-related relief generation on geological timescales implies that, while seismic events might be spaced only a few tens of thousands of years apart for a few seismic cycles (e.g. Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a), average recurrence over the entire neotectonic era is in the order of half a million years or more. Consequently, while slip rates in active periods might approach several metres per hundred thousand years or more, long term slip rates might be expected to be several orders of magnitude less (e.g. Clark et al. 2008a).

The 'average' strike of the features in southwest Western Australia (as shown in Figure 3), defined as the trend of the dominant structural components, is plotted in Figure 7. A dominant northerly trend is clearly apparent in the data, which has a mean of 4 degrees east of north. More than 85% of orientations are within 30 degrees either side of north. Presumably, given favourable fluid conditions and welding, orientation with respect to the prevailing E-W crustal stress field (e.g. Hillis and Reynolds 2000) is paramount in determining which elements of the pre-existing structure are likely to be active. High resolution aeromagnetic data indicate that complex interactions between oblique elements of pre-existing structure serve to localise stress at a regional scale (Dentith *et al.* 2009; Estrada 2009).

Furthermore, the uniform distribution of northerly trending reverse fault scarps is consistent with scarp formation under conditions imposed by the contemporary E-W oriented compressive crustal stress regime, and suggests that strain is uniformly distributed over the Yilgarn Craton over the timescale recorded in the land surface (say *ca.* >100 ka). These observations, when combined with the above evidence, is consistent with a seismicity/crustal strain model whereby the ductile part of the lithosphere deforms uniformly in response to an imposed easterly-trending contractional strain, and the upper (seismogenic) layer accommodates this large-scale flow by localised, transient and recurrent brittle deformation along lines of pre-existing crustal weakness (c.f. Braun *et al.* 2009; Clark 2010).

With the exception of the two well documented historic surface ruptures at Tennant Creek (Crone *et al.* 1992, 1997) and Marryat Creek (Machette *et al.* 1993; Crone *et al.* 1997), which have similar characters to the southwest Western Australia scarps just described, little is known of the large earthquake characteristics in the arid centre of the continent. Despite extensive dune fields and widespread deep regolith, several prominent scarps are known (e.g. the Iragana scarps, Munro scarps). The Iragana scarps stretch discontinuously over ~ 230 km of the Gibson Desert, in part

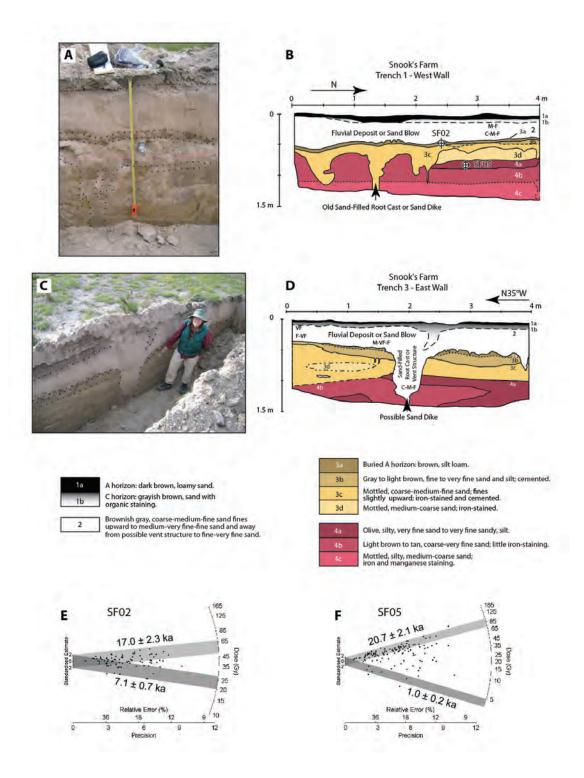


Figure 6 – Trenches excavated in the Mortlock River floodplain at a site where Gordon & Lewis (1980) reported that liquefaction occurred during the 1968 Meckering earthquake (modified from Tuttle 2003). Location in relation to Meckering surface rupture and dating results are shown on Figure 4. Two generations of sand-filled features that may be root casts or sand dykes are present. Parts E and F are single grain OSL results from samples SF02 and SF05, respectively (Olley 2004). OSL sample SF02 was taken from layer 3a on the east wall of the trench shown, and contained no ¹³⁷Cs or excess ²¹⁰Pb (Olley 2004).

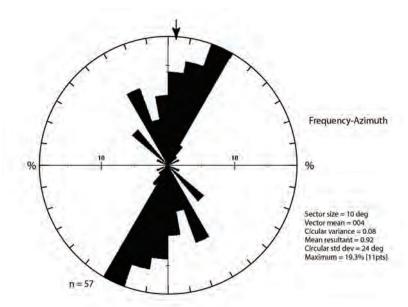


Figure 7 – Rose diagram of orientations of the scarps identified in southwest western Australia using high resolution DEM data (after Clark 2010).

coinciding with the Iragana Fault which is mapped in Proterozoic orogenic basement (van de Graaff 1975). The central scarp section is over 70 km long and up to 5 m high where it crosses alluvial palaeo-channels (Figure 8). At the resolution of the 3 arc-second SRTM DEM, the deposition patterns of Pleistocene desert dunes do not appear to change across the scarp, consistent with the scarp postdating dune formation. Similarly, linear dunes show no change in pattern across the two bounding scarps of the Munro horst (Figure 9). The SRTM DEM suggests that these features rise up to 10 m above the surrounding sand and alluvial plains of the Great Sandy Desert, consistent with several causative seismic events. Palaeo-drainage lines are extensively affected where the scarps cross them, forming a series of small lakes.

In addition to scarps, several air photo lineaments defined predominantly by concentrations of vegetation are known (e.g. Kalga Hills, Mt Liesler and Mt Theo features). In most cases the lineaments are parallel to major Proterozoic basement structural trends (cf. Shaw *et al.* 1996). It is possible that these features might relate to surface rupturing earthquakes by analogy to similar lineaments identified in the Mt Narryer region (Williams 1979; Clark 2004).

THE NULLARBOR PLAIN

The Nullarbor Plain is a marine terrace capped with limestone which was exposed at ca. 15 Ma as the result of gentle long wavelength uplift of the southwestern part of the Australian continent (Sandiford $et\ al$. 2009; Sandiford & Quigley 2009). The plain surface slopes gently to the south at significantly less than 1% and is extremely flat, with local relief in the order of a few tens of metres at most. These characteristics have resulted in an almost total absence of fluvial and hill slope processes on the plain, and the consequent dominance of karst solution processes throughout the entire neotectonic era. Preliminary estimates of land surface lowering rates, determined using cosmogenic 36 Cl abundances in calcrete cappings, are in the order of \sim 5 m/Ma (Stone $et\ al$. 1994).

The Nullarbor Plain preserves an extraordinary neotectonic record that paradoxically reflects the long-term tectonic stability of the underlying Proterozoic basement terranes. Numerous linear fault scarps are visible in SRTM DEM data across the plain (Figure 10a). Assuming approximately uniform surface lowering of the limestone plain across faults, displacements in the last 15 Ma have

Australian neotectonic domains model

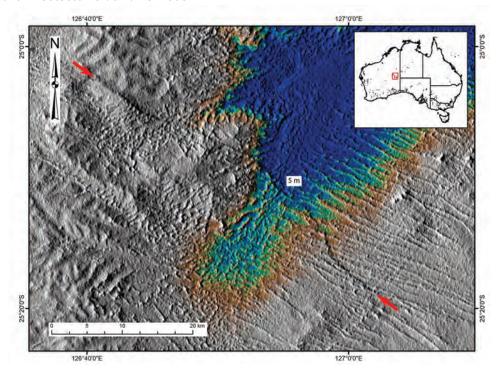


Figure 8 – 90m resolution SRTM DEM data over a 50 km long segment of the central part of the Iragana scarp, Central Australia. Note that palaeochannel is elevated to the SW of the scarp, indicating differential uplift of the landsurface. Aeolian dunes appear unaffected by this movement, suggesting that the faulting post-dates dune emplacement. Sun illumination is from the west.

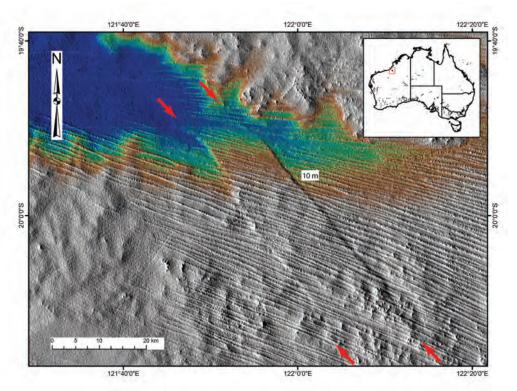


Figure 9 – 90m resolution SRTM DEM data over the 60 km long scarps of the Munro Horst, northwestern Australia. Note that palaeochannel is partly impeded by faulting, forming ephemeral lakes. Aeolian dunes appear unaffected by this movement, suggesting that the faulting post-dates dune emplacement. Sun illumination is from the west.

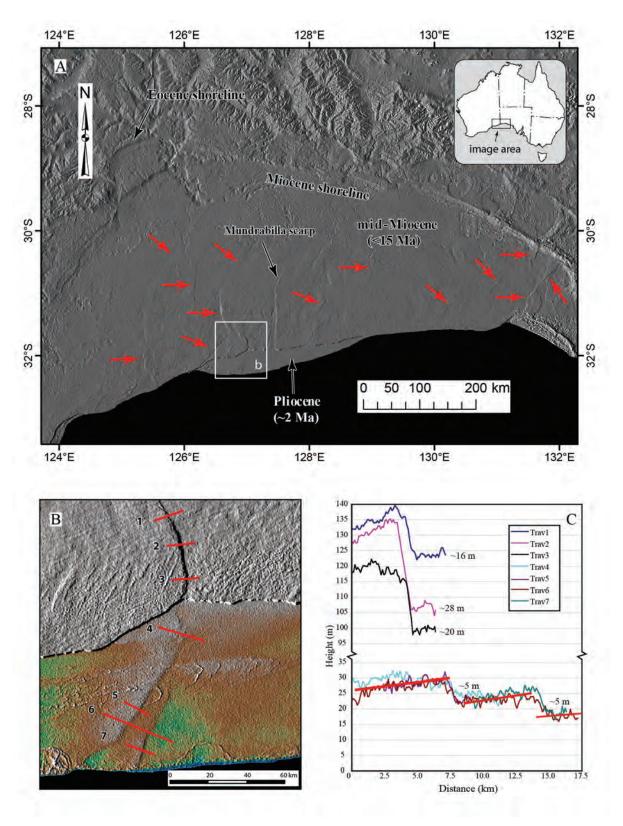


Figure 10 – (a) 90m resolution SRTM DEM data over the Nullarbor Plain. (b) inset showing the Roe Plain Scarp where it crosses both the Nullarbor and Roe Plains, (c) topographic profiles across the Roe Plain Scarp.

been in the order of a few tens of metres at most, and more commonly less than 10 m. Slip rates averaged over the neotectonic era are therefore everywhere in the range of 1-3 m/Ma or less. This conclusion is supported by the observation that several scarps do not continue from the Nullarbor Plain onto the ca. 2 Ma (James $et\ al$. 2006) Roe Plain surface. Two scarp traces do displace the Roe Plain surface vertically by ~ 5 m each (Figures 10b, c), and appear to link into a single scarp trace towards the Nullarbor Plain edge. A vertical slip rate estimate in the range of 2.5 m/Ma is obtained, or twice that number if it is assumed that the scarps link into a single fault at depth. This corresponds to dip-slip rates of $\sim 3.5-7.0$ m/Ma for a 45° dipping fault. The vertical displacement across the Roe Plain scarp where it cuts the Nullarbor Plain surface is in the range of 15-30 m (cf. 5 m, Figure 10c). Slip rates over the entire neotectonic era therefore appear to be consistent with those measured over the Pleistocene. Although there are no present-day stress data for this area, the orientation of these small displacement faults is consistent with the east—west orientation of the present-day stress field inferred for the area from plate-boundary force modelling and $in\ situ$ data (Figure 1) (Coblentz $et\ al$. 1995; Coblentz $et\ al$. 1998; Hillis & Reynolds 2003; Hillis $et\ al$. 2008). It is therefore possible that the scarp record relates to the last 5-10 Ma only, rather than the last 15 Ma.

The Mundrabilla Scarp (Figure 10a) coincides exactly with a linear feature imaged in national scale aeromagnetic data which is interpreted to mark the boundary of a Proterozoic basement terrane (Shaw *et al.* 1996). This testifies to a strong basement influence in localising neotectonic strain release, similar to that seen elsewhere in Western Australia (Dentith *et al.* 2009; Estrada 2009). Consistent with observations in other parts of Western Australia, the scarps do not appear to show any strong spatial arrangement with respect to each other, although they appear to be longer than their counterparts in the southwest of the State.

SOUTHERN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Flinders and Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia are bound on the east and the west by reverse faults that thrust Proterozoic and/or Cambrian basement rocks above Quaternary sediment (Sprigg 1946; Williams 1973; Sandiford 2003b; Quigley et al. 2006; Hillis et al. 2008). Faults in this region with documented Pliocene to Quaternary displacements include the Wilkatana/Depot Creek, Burra, Milendella, Para, Paralana, Willunga, Morgan, Gawler/Concordia, Ochre Cove-Clarendon, Eden-Burnside, Bremer, and Ediacara (Binks 1972; Williams 1973; Bourman & Lindsay 1989; Alley & Lindsay 1995; Sandiford 2003b; Quigley *et al.* 2006; Quigley *et al.* 2010) (Figure 11). Fault-propagation folding is well developed in Miocene strata proximal to the Willunga and Gawler faults (Lemon & McGowran 1989; Green 2007).

Celerier *et al.* (2005) show how variations in both absolute abundance and depth of heat-producing elements provide a plausible thermal control on lithospheric strength that helps localise deformation in the Flinders Ranges. The Flinders Ranges form part of a zone of anomalous surface heat flow (Neumann *et al.* 2000) with an average surface heat flow of 85 mW/m² reflecting unusually elevated heat production in the Proterozoic basement. Celerier *et al.* (2005) conclude that the upper-most mantle beneath the Flinders seismic zone may be 50-100°C hotter than surrounding zones because of the distribution of heat production within the crust. Neo-Proterozoic rift structures partially overprinted by Late Proterozoic to Palaeozoic compressional orogenic structures (Delamerian Orogeny) combine with this thermally weakened zone to create crust that is primed for focussing deformation. A similar mechanism has been proposed as a means of localising crustal deformation in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the USA (Liu & Zoback 1997).

Summit surfaces in the central Flinders Ranges have been uplifted relative to flanking piedmonts by more than 12 m in the last 70 ka, equivalent to a rate of ~ 170 m/Ma, due to activity on the

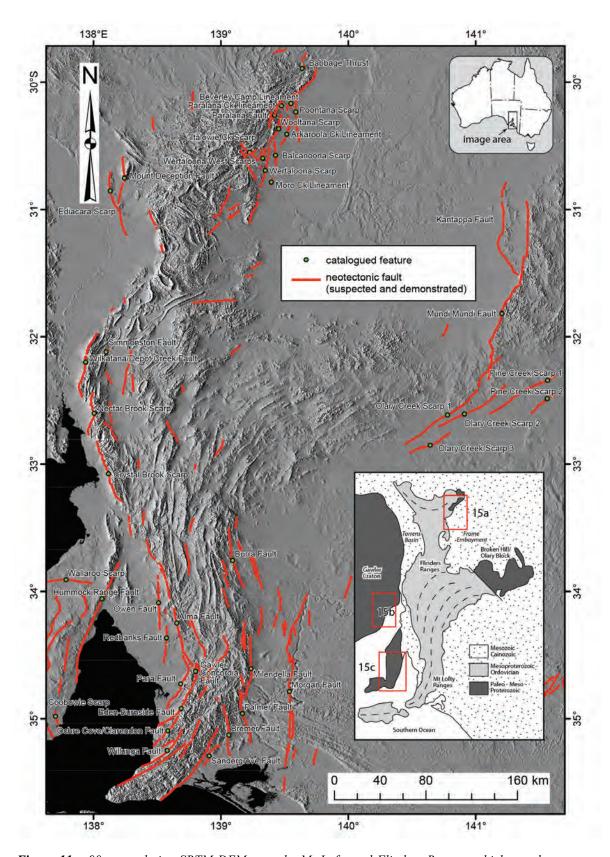


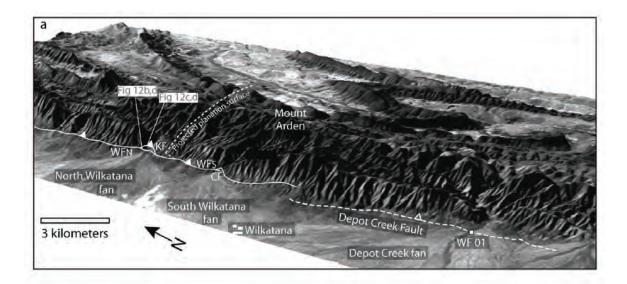
Figure 11 – 90 m resolution SRTM DEM over the Mt Lofty and Flinders Ranges, which together are denoted the Sprigg Orogen. Red lines denote fault scarps with suspected or demonstrated neotectonic movement (extracted from the Geoscience Australia neotectonics database, January 2010). Inset shows major geological provinces (after Celerier et al. 2005). Location boxes for Figure 15 are marked.

Wilkatana range bounding fault (Quigley *et al.* 2006) (Figure 12). Taking into account the intermittent nature of faulting in Australia (e.g. Crone *et al.* 2003), Quigley *et al.* (2006) and Sandiford (2003b) suggest that 30-50% of the present-day elevation of the Flinders Ranges relative to adjacent piedmonts has developed in the last 5 Ma. Cosmogenic ¹⁰Be concentrations in exposed bedrock surfaces and alluvial sediment in the same area support ongoing relief generation (Quigley *et al.* 2006; Quigley *et al.* 2007b), which has been termed the Sprigg Orogeny (Sandiford 2003b).

Range bounding faults in the Flinders and Mt Lofty Ranges range from a few tens to almost 100 km long and tend to be spaced significantly less than a fault length apart, often linking or arranged in an en echelon pattern (e.g. Figure 11). In the few instances where the thickness of overthrust colluvium can be estimated, total neotectonic throws are in the order of 100-200 m (Williams 1973; Preiss & Faulkner 1984; Bourman & Lindsay 1989; Celerier et al. 2005; Quigley et al. 2006). Recurrence data exists for the Wilkatana Fault, which is believed to have hosted a minimum of three surface rupturing earthquakes in the last 67 ka, involving approximately 15 m of slip (Quigley et al. 2006) (Figure 12). A single event slip estimate by these authors in excess of 3.8 m implies earthquakes with magnitudes of greater than M_w 7.0. A detached Cambrian bedrock slab \sim 7 m long overlies Pleistocene Ochre Cove Formation colluvium on the footwall of the Milendella Fault near Cambrai (Figures 13 & 14). The coherence of the fabric in the slab suggests that it was tectonically emplaced in its current location, rather than being transported by hillslope processes. The high angle of the fabric in the slab (i.e. slope parallel) to the hanging wall bedrock fabric, and the observation that a successive rupture has detached the slab from the bedrock (Figures 13c & 14), suggests the slab came to be in its current setting as the result of a single large magnitude seismic event (Geoscience Australia, unpublished field data; Reid 2007). Slip rates on individual faults have been estimated to be in the order of 20-150 m/Ma (Sandiford 2003b). However, a slip rate estimate of over 700 m/Ma has been suggested for the Para Fault over the last 125 ka (Malcolm Sheard, PIRSA, pers. communication, 2009).

Along deeply dissected lines of drainage in the northeast Flinders Ranges, exposures of the Paralana Fault system show Proterozoic metamorphic rocks thrust over unmetamorphosed sediments of the Frome Embayment and Quaternary hillslope deposits (Belperio 1995; Sandiford 2003b; Celerier *et al.* 2005). Extensive alluvial fans associated with the Paralana Escarpment, dating from perhaps *ca.* 30-120 ka (Williams 1973; Bourman *et al.* 1998), are crossed by numerous low scarps and parallel lineaments (e.g. Harper 2002; Sandiford 2003b; Celerier *et al.* 2005) (Figures 11 & 15a). Rare stream exposures indicate that these features are underlain by low-angle west-dipping reverse faults, similar to the range front fault, with several metres of offset (Sandiford 2003b, Figure 9). Detailed geological mapping links these features with Delamerian basement structures (Dubieniecki & Hill 2007). Similar relationships are exposed along the Mt Babbage Thrust (Belperio 1995, Wolfgang Preiss, personal communication, 2006).

Neotectonic deformation is more subtle moving away from the topographic axis of the Flinders Ranges (Figures 11 & 15b, c). To the west, neotectonism is well documented on a number of faults on the northeast Eyre Peninsula (e.g. Miles 1952; Dunham 1992; Hutton *et al.* 1994; Crone *et al.* 2003; McCormack 2006; Weatherman 2006; Robert 2007) (Figure 15b), the Yorke Peninsula (Crawford 1965) (Figure 15c), and on the western margin of the Eyre Basin (Wopfner 1968; Waclawik *et al.* 2008; Quigley *et al.* 2010). To the east, the Mundi Mundi and Kantappa faults displace Quaternary strata (Hill & Kohn 1998; Quigley *et al.* 2006) (Figure 11). Additional scarps are apparent in 3 arc-second SRTM DEM data in the Pine Creek and Olary regions (Figure 11). These structures are similarly arranged to faults in the Flinders Ranges, tending to be spatially clustered, but typically appear to displace pre-Pliocene basement by less than a few tens of metres.



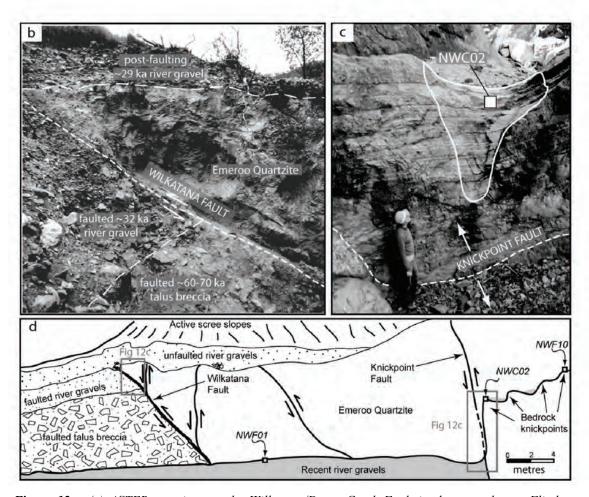


Figure 12 – (a) ASTER mosaic over the Wilkatana/Depot Creek Fault in the central west Flinders Ranges, showing first order relationship to topography. (b) the Wilkatana fault as exposed near the apex of the North Wilkatana fan. OSL geochronology from (Quigley et al. 2006) shown. (c) the Knickpoint Fault where it intersects the creek at the head of the North Wilkatana fan. (d) cartoon showing faulting and relationship of faulting to the range front at the head of the North Wilkatana fan. Images adapted after Quigley et al. (2006) and Quigley et al. (2007a).

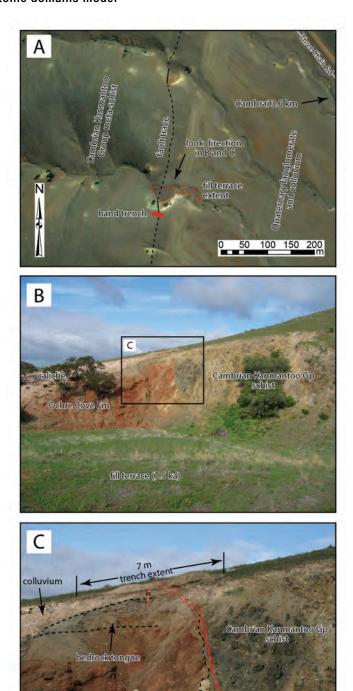


Figure 13 – The Milendella Fault, eastern Mt Lofty Ranges. Location near Cambrai is marked by a green dot on the Milendella fault trace on Figure 11. (a) Aerial photograph showing exposures of the Milendella fault (see also Bourman & Lindsay 1989; Sandiford 2003b), location of hand trench, and unfaulted inset fill terrace. (b) field photo looking south towards the southern fault exposure in (a) from a position on an unfaulted inset fill terrace. Note bedrock over-riding mid Pleistocene Ochre Cove Formation. Pale yellow Miocene Mannum Limestone has been dragged up the fault plane. Groundwater circulation along the fault plane has resulted in significant calcification of colluvial deposits downslope of the trace. (c) enlargement of the region where the fault plane intersects the surface. Bedrock tongue contains a coherent schistose fabric parallel to the palaeo-slope surface represented by the top of the Ochre Cover Formation, and is 7 m long. Note hand trench extents.

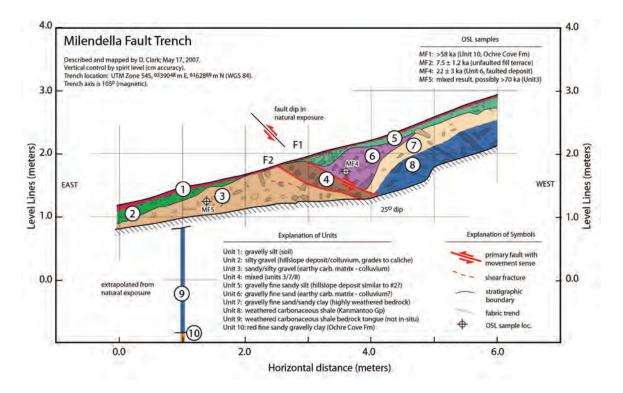
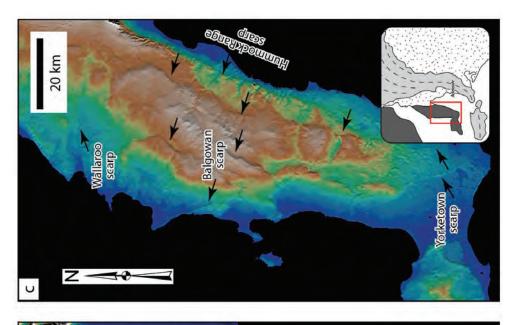
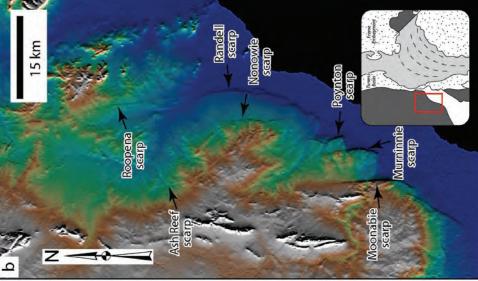


Figure 14 – Log of hand trench excavated across the surface trace of the Milendella fault. Trench location is shown in Figure 10. Dating results suggest at least one surface rupture between ca. 22 ka and 7.5 ka. A penultimate event resulted in the emplacement of a 7 m long bedrock tongue over the Ochre Cove Formation in the footwall (age < 780 ka (Pillans 2003b)).

EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Eastern Australia is characterised by some of the greatest relief on the continent, and some of the higher bedrock erosion rates. The Eastern Highlands have been the subject of numerous studies of bedrock erosion rates, values for which predominantly fall in the range of 20-50 m/Ma (e.g. Bishop et al. 1985; Weissel & Seidl 1998; Bishop & Goldrick 2000; Heimsath et al. 2000, 2001; Wilkinson et al. 2005; Tomkins et al. 2007). The bulk of the contemporary elevation of the highlands has been related to the late Mesozoic opening of the Tasman Sea (Vandenberg 2010), with relief being maintained by isostatic rebound (Bishop 1988; Bishop & Brown 1992; Bishop 1995; Bishop 2007). Holdgate et al. (2008) presented evidence from the southern Eastern Highlands that resurrected the idea of a punctuated post-Eocene Kosciuszko Uplift event (cf. Andrews 1910; Sprigg 1946; Browne 1967) that continued into the Late Pliocene and potentially into the Pleistocene. It is possible that this event might be responsible for adding several hundred metres of local relief to the highlands, and relate to the pulse of deformation seen in south-east Australian offshore basins in the interval 10-5 Ma associated with the reorganisation of the crustal stress field into its present configuration (Dickinson et al. 2001; Dickinson et al. 2002; Sandiford et al. 2004; Hillis et al. 2008). The Lake George Fault east of Canberra (Coventry 1976; Singh et al. 1981; Abel 1985) (Figure 16), and faults of the Lapstone Structural Complex (LSC) near Sydney (Branagan & Pedram 1990; Pickett & Bishop 1992), may also have accumulated much of their several hundred metres of neotectonic displacement in this event (Clark 2009). However, while palaeomagnetic data indicate that folding and uplift relating to the LSC had largely ceased by late Pliocene (Bishop et al. (1982) with age recalculated by Pillans (2003a)), the preliminary findings from a fault-bounded lake adjacent to the Kurrajong Fault in the northern LSC indicate that neotectonic displacement may be limited to less than 20 m on this major fault (Clark et al. 2009). The implication is that most relief at the eastern range front of the Blue Mountains relates to erosional exhumation of 'old' structures





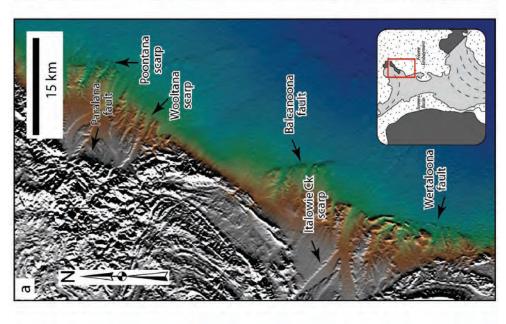
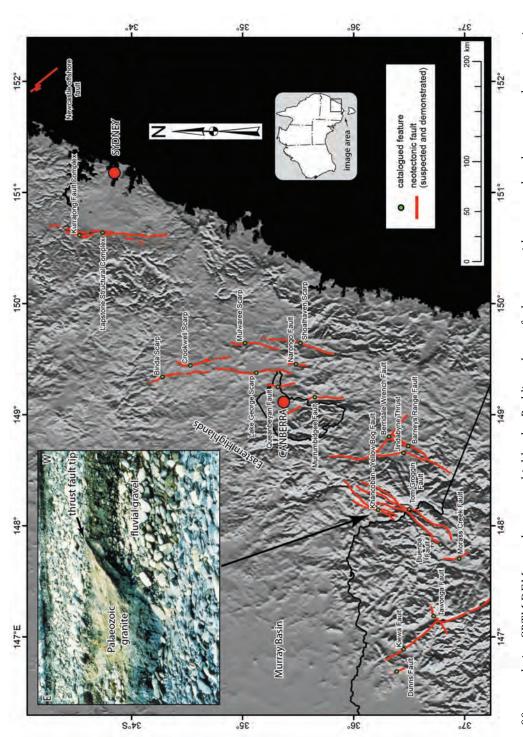


Figure 15 – 90 m resolution SRTM DEM images. (a) scarps cutting alluvial fans east of the Paralana escarpment, (b) scarps on the eastern margin of the Eyre Peninsula, including the Roopena scarp (Crone et al. 2003), (c) scarps on the Yorke Peninsula. Refer to Figure 11 inset for more detailed location.



(extracted from the Geoscience Australia neotectonics database, January 2010). Inset shows the Khancoban-Yellow Bog Fault as exposed in the bed of **Figure 16** -90 m resolution SRTM DEM over the eastern highlands. Red lines denote fault scarps with suspected or demonstrated neotectonic movement Khancoban Creek shortly after the Murray I power station was commissioned in the late 1960's. Inset image kindly provided by David Stapleton (formerly of Snowy Hydro).

(Pickett & Bishop 1992; Clark *et al.* 2008b, 2009). Further north, at the boundary between the Lachlan and New England Fold Belts, warping of Miocene strata during the Pleistocene has resulted in the formation of a monocline of 30 m amplitude (Huftile *et al.* 1999). This \sim 30 km long northwest trending structure, the Newcastle offshore fault (Figure 16), occurs along strike of the Hunter Thrust system, and close to the epicentre of the 1989 M5.6 Newcastle earthquake.

Comparable bedrock erosion rates and tectonic relief production rates might be expected to result in low scarp survivability, bar exceptional circumstances. This general expectation is borne out by examples such as the Khancoban-Yellow Bog Fault, which superposes Mesozoic granite over up to 500 m of Cenozoic fluvial gravels (Moye *et al.* 1963; Sharp 2004), yet has little topographic expression. The Tawonga (Beavis 1960; Hills 1975; Beavis & Beavis 1976; Sharp 2004) and Kiewa Faults (Beavis & Beavis 1976) also fall into this category, with hundreds of metres of neotectonic displacement likely. Further south in the Victorian Goldfields active faulting is often known only from displacement of the bases of Pliocene and younger basalt flows capping palaeochannel fill sediments (i.e. deep leads) (e.g. Canavan 1988; Kotsonis & Joyce 2003a; Kotsonis & Joyce 2003b).

Significantly lower relief and the widespread preservation of retrogressive Pliocene marine strandline deposits in the Murray Basin to the west of the highlands suggests significantly lower erosion rates (Figure 17). Consequently, preservation of fault scarps might be expected to be greater than in the highlands. However, the materials in which scarps are developed within the basin are typically partially indurated Cenozoic sediments rather than bedrock, and so are highly susceptible to degradation resulting from fluvial and lacustrine processes. Examples are the Danyo, Iona and Neckarboo Ridges in the central Murray Basin (Sandiford 2003b), and the Cadell tilt block in the eastern Murray Basin (Harris 1938; Bowler & Harford 1966; Bowler 1978; Rutherfurd & Kenyon 2005). These features are the broad scale-expression within Cenozoic cover sediments of reactivated Lachlan Fold Belt basement faults (e.g. Figure 17 – inset) – the "resurgent tectonics" of Hills (1961). Similar features are evident in the upper catchments of the Murray-Darling Basin drainage system. For example, 90 m SRTM DEM data show that the Namoi River is diverted north around the < 6 m high and 35 km long Walgett Scarp (Figure 18a). Further north, neotectonic deformation of Mesozoic rocks of the Surat Basin has raised a ridge of overlying Cenozoic sediment which constricts the channel of the Balonne River (Figure 18b). The displacement profile across this ridge suggests that the northern margin of the ridge is underlain by a southwest dipping reverse fault.

The Cadell Fault is one of the best characterised neotectonic faults in eastern Australia in terms of its earthquake behaviour. It is situated in the Riverine Plain, a broad, topographically subdued region of the Murray-Darling Basin (Bowler & Harford 1966; Bowler 1978; Brown & Stephenson 1991) (Figures 17 & 19). West-side up displacements across the 80 km long fault have resulted in the formation of a scarp up to 15 m high which diverted the course of Australia's largest river, the Murray River. (Bowler 1978). The 3-4 m height of a tectonic terrace riser bordering the channel of the palaeo-Murray River in Green Gully, now an air gap, is consistent with entire scarp-length rupture (~ M_w 7.2-7.3)(Clark et al. 2007) (Figure 20). At least four earthquakes of this magnitude are required to produce the observed 14-15 m relief across the scarp. Perhaps a further two events of similar magnitude are required to account for 6 m of aggradation of the Barmah Fan, which buries the foot of the scarp (Stone 2006). Optically stimulated luminescence dating of fluvial and lacustrine sediments that pre- and post-date the first and last recognised seismic events, respectively, indicate that the 4-6 events occurred over a ca. 60 ka time interval between 80-20 ka, and involved a total slip in the order of 25 m, suggesting an average slip rate over this interval of ~ 0.4 mm/yr (Stone 2006; Clark et al. 2007). Seismic reflection data obtained over the scarp (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data) (Figure 21) indicate only ~ 55 m of displacement of Neogene strata

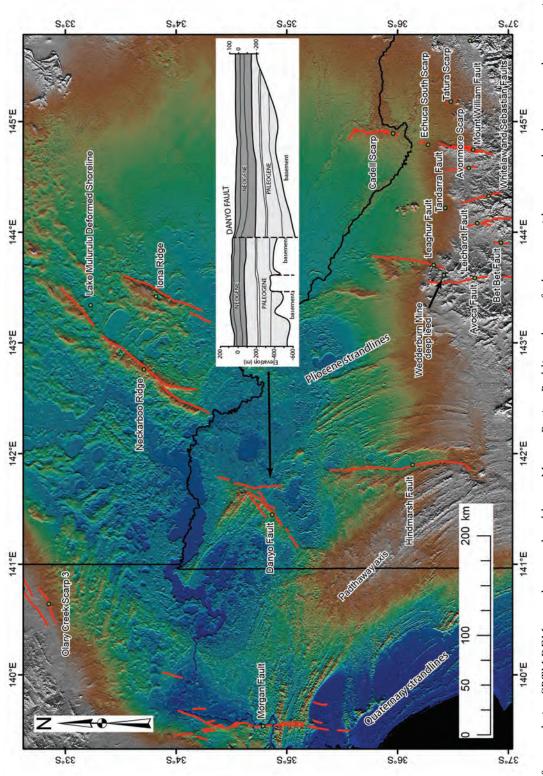


Figure 17-90 m resolution SRTM DEM over the central and lower Murray Basin. Red lines denote fault scarps with suspected or demonstrated neotectonic movement (extracted from the Geoscience Australia neotectonics database, January 2010). Inset shows a borehole-constrained geologic section across the Danyo Fault (adapted after Nott 1989). Note that base of Neogene is faulted, while upper Neogene is warped. This structure is likely to be mimicked beneath the Iona and Neckarboo Ridges.

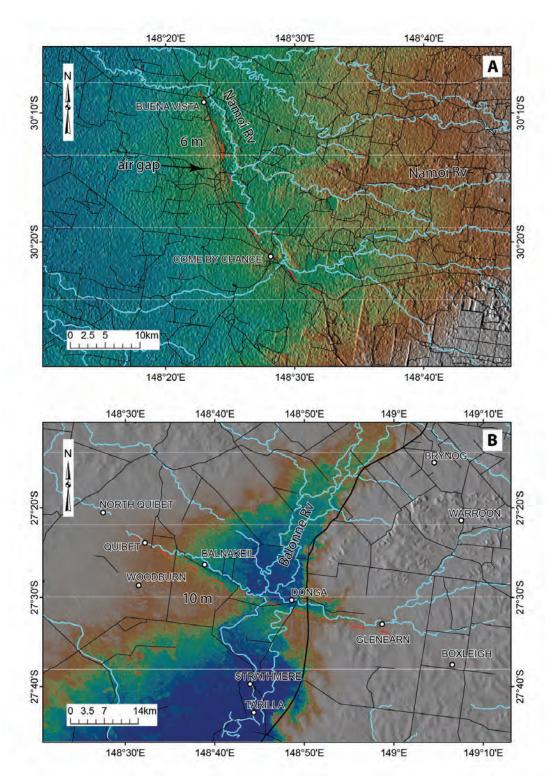


Figure 18 – 90 m resolution SRTM DEM over two Murray Basin scarps. (a) Walgett scarp indicated by red dashed line. Note Namoi River diversion, air gap and that uplift height diminishes to the west away from the scarp (a triangular displacement profile). This suggests that the uplifted area is underlain by a southwest dipping reverse fault. (b) Balonne River scarp (Condamine Creek scarp) indicated by red dashed line. Uplifted ridge developed in Balonne River alluvium. Displacement profile is again suggestive of a southwest dipping reverse fault.

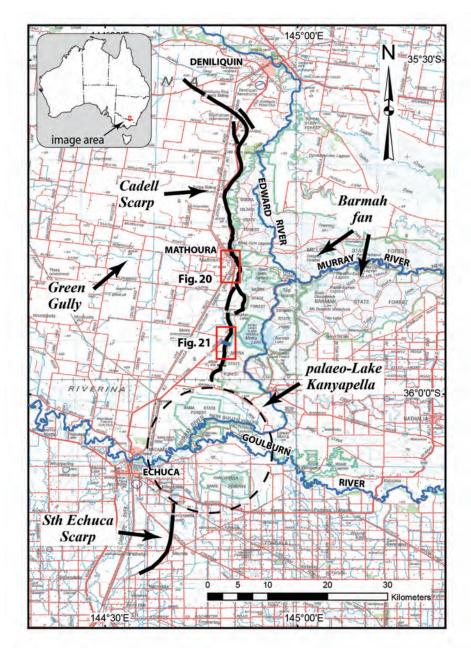


Figure 19 – (inset) Location of the Cadell Fault in the Murray Darling Basin and (main) detailed scarp location map showing the current configuration of the major rivers. Prior to uplift of the western side of the Cadell Scarp the Murray River flowed westward across the scarp at Mathoura. After initial diversion, the Murray is thought to have occupied the course of the Edwards River. Perhaps as little as 500 years ago the course changed to its current location, probably as the result of non-seismic avulsion (Stone 2006).

across a 50° west-dipping fault. This additional \sim 30 m of slip appears to have occurred largely in a discrete episode during the Pliocene sea-level high stand. Pronounced temporal clustering of events is implied, with long periods of inactivity separating short periods of scarp building (Clark *et al.* 2007). Borehole data across the scarp at the latitude of palaeo-Lake Kanyapella (approximately 15 km south of the seismic line, see Figure 19) indicate \sim 25 m of vertical displacement across the base of the late Pliocene – Quaternary Shepparton Formation (Tickell & Humphrys 1987).

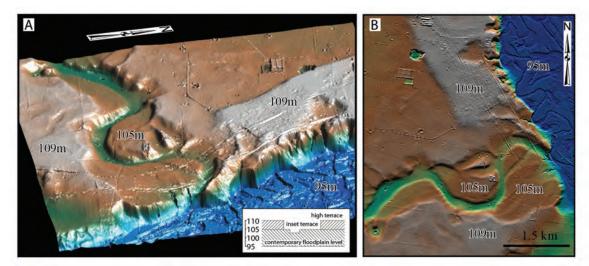
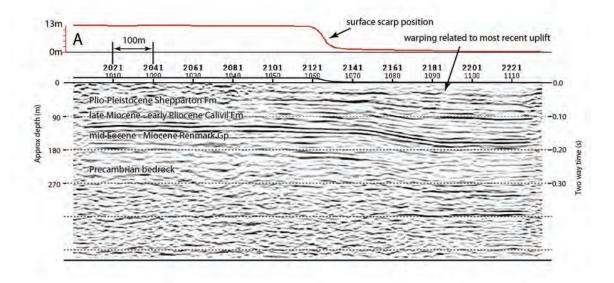


Figure 20 – 2m resolution LIDAR DEM data over the Murray River palaeo-channel (Green Gully). Note inset terrace at an elevation 4 m lower than the highest terrace. This elevation change potentially reflects a large earthquake event. The contemporary floodplain is 10 m lower than the inset terrace, implying further seismic events. Mathoura township exists below the northern-most 109 m label.

Neotectonic faults in the highlands of central Victoria, to the south of the Murray Basin, share similar characteristics to Murray Basin faults (Figure 17). For example, the Cadell Fault emerges from cover to the south as the Heathcote Fault Zone, which is expressed as a prominent ridgeline corresponding to the elevated hanging-wall of the west-dipping Mt Ida/Mt William thrust faults (Gray *et al.* 1991). Similarly, the Avonmore/Meadow Valley, Whitelaw, Sebastian, Leichardt and Leaghur Faults emerge from the Murray Basin as prominent scarps developed in Lachlan Fold Belt basement rocks (Canavan 1988; Kotsonis & Joyce 2003a; Kotsonis & Joyce 2003b; Holdgate *et al.* 2006).

In southwest Tasmania, the Miocene/Pliocene marine unconformity that marks the onset of the neotectonic era (Dickinson *et al.* 2002; Sandiford *et al.* 2004) is exposed onshore by virtue of the slow northward tilting of the continent (Sandiford 2007). This surface, denoted the Henty Peneplain (e.g. Colhoun 1985), is locally developed in Pliocene sediments which are displaced vertically by \sim 80 m across a \sim 45 km long section of the D'Aguilar Ranges Fault (Baillie *et al.* 1985; Houshold *et al.* 2008) (Figure 22a). Further east, the Lake Edgar Fault is associated with a prominent 30 km long and up to 8 m high scarp developed largely in periglacial alluvium and colluvium (Figure 22b). Three events of M_w 6.8-7.0, involving between 2.4 m and 3.1 m of vertical uplift per event, are constrained by OSL dating of uplifted river terraces to have occurred on this fault in the last 60 ka, with an average slip rate of 0.11-0.24 mm/yr (Clark *et al.* 2010). The little studied Lake Echo (Fairbridge 1948) and Gell River (McCue *et al.* 2003) scarps attest to the potential for large earthquake occurrence in central Tasmania.

Very few neotectonic features are known from the northeast of Australia, and most of these are less than convincing (Figure 23). The progressive depression of the northern margin (Sandiford 2007), often deep regolith cover, and in the far east relief combined with dense vegetation cover, may play a part in low scarp preservation and discoverability. However, shallow or exposed bedrock or duricrust is sufficiently common to suggest that the paucity of features may be an accurate reflection of the neotectonic environment.



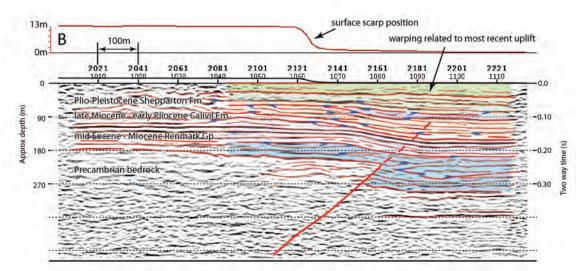
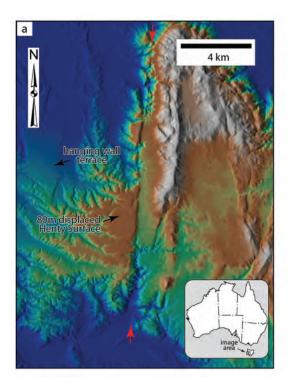


Figure 21 – East-west seismic reflection profile over the central Cadell Scarp, shot with 10 m geophone spacing (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data). Note that scarp has retreated ~400m from the projection of the intersection of the fault tip with the surface as the result of fluvial erosion. Expression in the upper section is of a fault propagation fold. The Renmark Group/Calivil Formation boundary approximates the start of the neotectonic era.

Two prominent scarps relating to the Palmerville Fault, arranged in an *en echelon* pattern, occur on the strandplain of Princess Charlotte Bay in northeast Queensland (Figure 24). The southernmost of these scarps is in the order of 40 km long and appears to displace Plio-Pleistocene residual sand deposits (Blewett & Wilford 1996) by 20 m vertically. The 36 km long northern scarp is also associated with 20 m of relief. However, Quaternary alluvial and coastal deposits have obscured residual sand deposits on the downthrown block at this location, so the displacement estimate may be treated as a minimum. Depositional discontinuities in Quaternary barrier dune ridges suggest that the transgressing seas of both Pleistocene and Holocene age encountered terraces relating to the Palmerville Fault zone (Burne & Graham 1995).

Near to the tip of Cape York, the inferred Vrilya Fault offsets a laterite developed in Cretaceous rocks (Figure 23). Laterite in the region of the Vrilya Fault has been mapped as Pliocene in age (Gibson & Smart 1973), but it is not known whether the laterite displaced by the fault is of this age (Colin Pain, pers. comm., 2006). A linear range front behind Rockhampton (Dee Range Fault) and an ENE-trending geophysical lineament at the mouth of the Fitzroy River (Fitzroy lineament) have



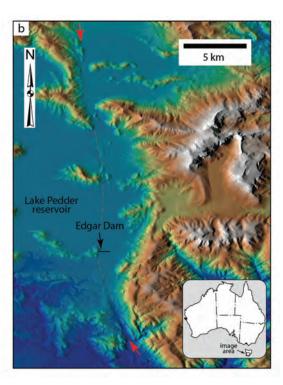


Figure 22 – (a) SRTM 3 arc second DEM over the D'Aguilar Ranges scarp near Birches Inlet, SW Tasmania. Note that the southern part of the scarp displaces a planation surface developed in Pliocene sediments by up to 80 m. (b) 30 m DEM over the Lake Edgar Fault showing termination of bedrock ridges at the fault trace. The DEM is not of sufficient resolution to show the fine detail of the terraces dated by Clark et al. (2010), nor other subtle scarp features important for interpretation of its earthquake rupture behaviour.

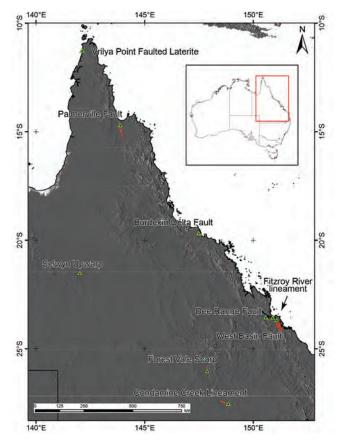


Figure 23 – Potential neotectonic features in northeastern Australia. Background image is the 90 m SRTM DEM. See Figure 18b for a map of the Condamine creek lineament, and Figure 24 for a map of the Palmerville Fault.

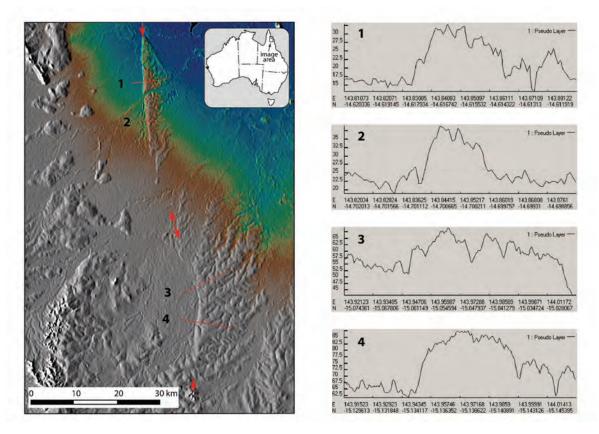


Figure 24 – The Palmerville Fault scarp in northeast Queensland. Left: SRTM 3 arc second DEM over the northern Palmerville Fault where it goes offshore into Princess Charlotte Bay. The scarp here is developed in indurated residual sands of probable Pliocene age. The scarp strongly influences Holocene and Pleistocene dune patterns. Right: Topographic profiles across the Palmerville Fault scarp. Location of profiles shown in left panel.

been interpreted to be underlain by active faults on the basis of an association with seismicity (McKavanagh *et al.* 1993; McKavanagh *et al.* 1994). The Western Basin Fault near Gladstone was identified as a fault of interest by virtue of an association with Quaternary sedimentation (Amy Brown, pers. comm., 2002). Twidale (1966) interpreted a Cenozoic change in stream morphology with time to the west of Mt Isa as reflecting broad scale northward tilting. This feature was denoted the Selwyn Warp. Further study is required to reconcile the potential for neotectonic movement with the northward tilting of the continent (Sandiford 2007).

The inventory of neotectonic faults in eastern Australia is likely to be highly incomplete as the result of relief reducing discoverability, and/or high erosion rates. However, of those known, spatial associations are locally apparent. Faults are arranged in north-south to northeast-southwest complexes up to 100-150 km long that are offset in an *en echelon* fashion from neighbouring complexes. Examples are provided by the Neckarboo, Danyo and Iona Ridges (Figure 17), the Khancoban-Yellow Bog and Lake George Faults, and the Lapstone Structural Complex (Figure 16). This style changes to reasonably closely spaced north-trending faults in central Victoria, and to highly interconnected, closely spaced networks of faults in the Mesozoic basins of southern Victoria.

MESOZOIC BASINS AND EXTENDED CONTINENTAL CRUST

Australia's passive margins are fringed by extended continental crust resulting from the Mesozoic break-up of the super-continent Gondwana (Veevers 2000). In most places this crust is submerged and so might not easily be examined in terms of palaeoseismic record. However, Mesozoic extensional basins which preserve rich neotectonic records are exposed onshore in the southeast (Gippsland and Otway Basins) and along the western margin (Perth and Carnarvon Basins) of the continent. Neogene inversion of Mesozoic to Tertiary basins in southeastern Australia has resulted in the formation of upland systems such as the Otway and Strzelecki Ranges which are defined at the surface by Pliocene to Quaternary broad anticlines, monoclines, synclines and rare reverse faults (e.g. Figure 25) (Hill et al. 1994). On the northern flanks of the Otway Range, in southern Victoria, the remnants of a Pliocene strandplain rise ~ 120 metres over a series of ENE trending faults and monoclines to elevations of ~ 250 metres (Sandiford 2003b, a; Sandiford et al. 2004; Wallace et al. 2005) (Figure 25). Along with its correlatives in the Murray and Gippsland Basins (Holdgate et al. 2003; Wallace et al. 2005), this strandplain developed during falling sea levels following a 6 Ma high stand at ~ 65 m above present day sea level (Brown & Stephenson 1991), implying almost 200 m of fault-related tectonic uplift. Displacement of Neogene strata in the Otway Ranges has accumulated in the last 5-6 Ma (Sandiford et al. 2004) giving time averaged displacement on bounding faults of ~ 40- 50 m/Ma (Perincek & Cockshell 1995; Quigley et al. 2010). However, it is possible that these rates are not representative of current displacement rates, given evidence for a major pulse of deformation in the Otway Ranges that is constrained to have occurred between ca. 2-1 Ma (Sandiford 2003a).

Given the above-mentioned potential for episodicity the following estimates of slip rate, based upon displacement of Miocene strata, Pliocene strandlines, or Newer Volcanic flows of Pliocene and younger age, must be treated with appropriate caution (Clark & McPherson 2009) (Figures 25 and 26): Avalon Fault (~ 6 m/Ma), Bambra Fault (~ 4 m/Ma) (Tickell et al. 1992), Barabool Fault (~ 20-30 m/Ma), Castle Cove Fault (> 6-12 m/Ma), Colac Fault (~ 10-25 m/Ma), Cooriejong Monocline (~ 5 m/Ma), Curdie Monocline (~ 10-20 m/Ma), Curlewis Monocline (~ 4 m/Ma), Fergusson Hill anticline (~ 23-58 m/Ma), Johanna Fault (> 7-13 m/Ma), Lovely Banks Monocline (~ 35 m/Ma), Pirron-Yallock Monocline (~ 5-13 m/Ma), Rowsley Fault (> 55 m/Ma), Selwyn Fault (~ 50 m/Ma) (Janssen 2001), Simpson Anticline (~ 5-13 m/Ma). It is also likely that the Torquay Fault has a significant neotectonic slip rate as it bounds the southern margin of the Otway Ranges. Numerous other structures are likely to have hosted neotectonic displacement in this complex region (e.g. Perincek & Cockshell 1995). However, no palaeoseismicity data exists for single earthquakes due in large part to a predominance of folding, as opposed to discrete faulting at the surface (e.g. Edwards et al. 1996) (Figure 25b & c), perhaps combined with relatively little deformation in the last 1-2 Ma (c.f. Sandiford 2003a). A handful of fault exposures are known, but these are observed to displace only Pliocene lithology at the surface and hence offer no insight into the Quaternary faulting history [e.g. Barabool Hills Fault (Gibson & Boston 2008, Day 5 Stop 6) (Figure 26 inset), unnamed fault near Aire Valley (Edwards et al. 1996, excursion Stop 38)].

Neotectonism in the Gippsland Basin has a similar expression to the Otway Basin, with folding being more common than faulting at the surface (Gloe 1960; Beavis 1975; Barton 1981; Dickinson *et al.* 2002; Sandiford 2003b). In the onshore basin, coal deposition ceased as a result of late Miocene compression (Holdgate *et al.* 2007). On structural highs, the uppermost coal seam (the Yallourn Seam) is overlain by the same Late Pliocene unconformity that denotes the onset of the neotectonic era offshore. The eroded subcrop surface of the coal seams was buried < 5 Ma ago by a series of 10–40 m thick outwash fan deposits known as the Haunted Hill Formation (HHF) (e.g. Bolger 1991; Holdgate *et al.* 2008). Slip rate estimates slightly in excess of those of Otway Basin

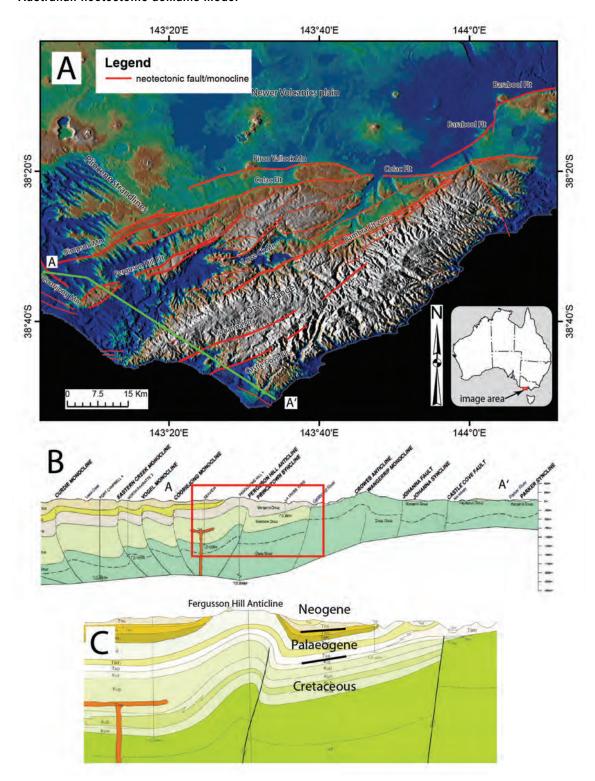


Figure 25 – Neotectonics of the Otway Ranges, southeast Otway Basin. (a) 90 m SRTM DEM over the Otway Ranges showing surface trace of major neotectonic faults and monoclines. Note Pliocene strandlines (Hanson Plain sand) are uplifted across the Simpson and Fergusson Hill monoclines, providing a datum for slip-rate estimation. Newer Volcanics flows provide a similar datum in the east of the ranges. (b) NW-SE cross section through the Otway Ranges showing inverted rift basin structure (after Edwards et al. 1996), (c) detail of stratigraphy folded over the Fergusson Hill Anticline (after Tickell et al. 1992). The base material in parts (b) and (c) is © State of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, 1996 and 1992, respectively. Reproduced with permission. Note that while most Neogene units have eroded from the anticline crest there are remnants of originally flat-lying Pliocene Hanson Plains sand (Tpb) on the crest and within syncline to the southeast.

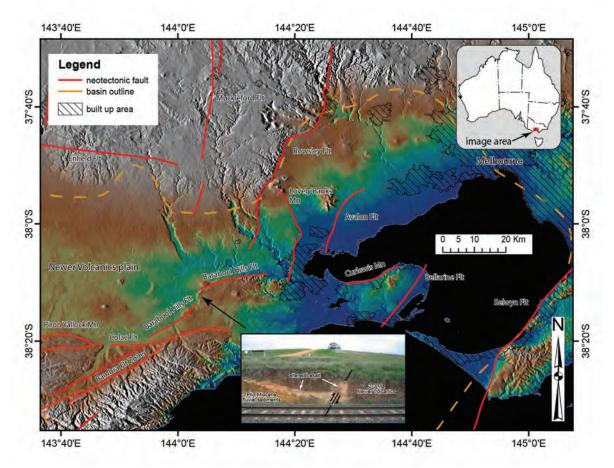


Figure 26 – 90 m SRTM DEM showing neotectonic deformation of the eastern Otway Basin. Newer Volcanics flows, perhaps 2-3 Ma old (Gibson 2007), are extensively folded and faulted. Inset shows faulted Newer Volcanics associated with the Barabool Hills Monocline near Winchelsea (38°13'48.35"S, 144°03'5.53"E).

faults (\sim 65 m/Ma) have been obtained from the preliminary results of cosmogenic radionuclide burial and exposure dating of Haunted Hill Formation gravels folded over the Snake Ridge and Morwell Monoclines (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data, Figure 27, Figures 28a,b). The slip rate on the basin-bounding Yallourn Fault, also based upon CRN dating of uplifted HHF gravels, is > 63 m/Ma (Figure 28c). The base of the Haunted Hills Formation is seen to be vertically displaced by \sim 30 m across the Yallourn Monocline at the eastern end of the Yallourn North open cut mine (Dickinson *et al.* 2002) (see Figure 28b), although the age of the unit is not known at this locality precluding a slip rate estimate.

A northerly dipping thrust fault, superposing Jurassic sediments over the Latrobe coal seam by ~ 85 m, and perhaps also the HHF, was exposed briefly over a length of ~ 330 m during mining in the western end of the same pit (Gloe 1960, Figure 13). The Yallourn Monocline is again faulted near to where it is truncated by the Haunted Hills Fault (see Figure 27, 26b). Drilling beneath the site of the Yallourn power station identified a discrete fault trace relating to the Yallourn Fault that displaces the Oligocene Latrobe coal seam by 160 m (Beavis 1975). Based upon the drilling results, the Pliocene unconformity surface underlying the HHF at this location was not interpreted to be significantly displaced (Dickinson *et al.* 2002, Figure 15), suggesting that much of this deformation pre-dates the deposition of the HHF, and perhaps the neotectonic era. However, given the relatively young HHF ages obtained from the Morwell Monocline and Snake Ridge Monocline (630±63 - 1200±430 ka, Geoscience Australia, unpublished data, Figure 28a, b), significant deformation might have accrued on this fault in neotectonic times.

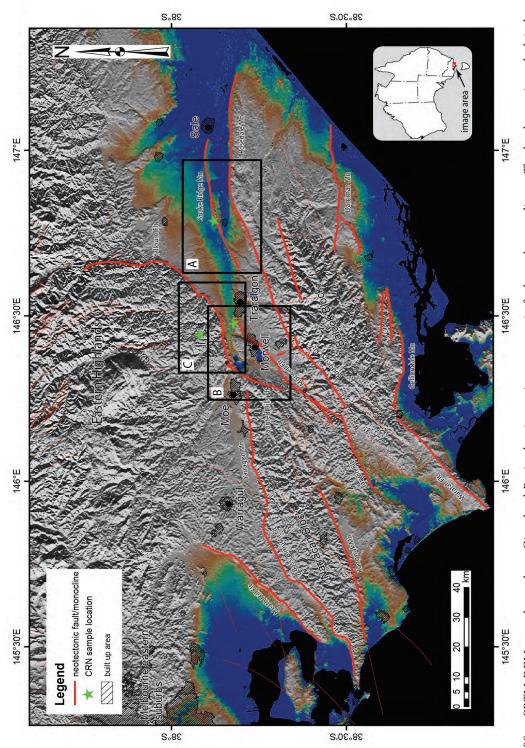


Figure 27 – 90 m SRTM DEM over the onshore Gippsland Basin showing major neotectonic faults and monoclines. The landscape is underlain by an inverting basin architecture similar to that in the Otway Basin (c.f. Figure 25b). CRN sample locations are shown with green stars. Frames marked A, B, & C refer to Figure 28. The three major open cut coal mines, Yallourn, Hazelwood and Loy Yang, appear as blue polygons in the DEM.

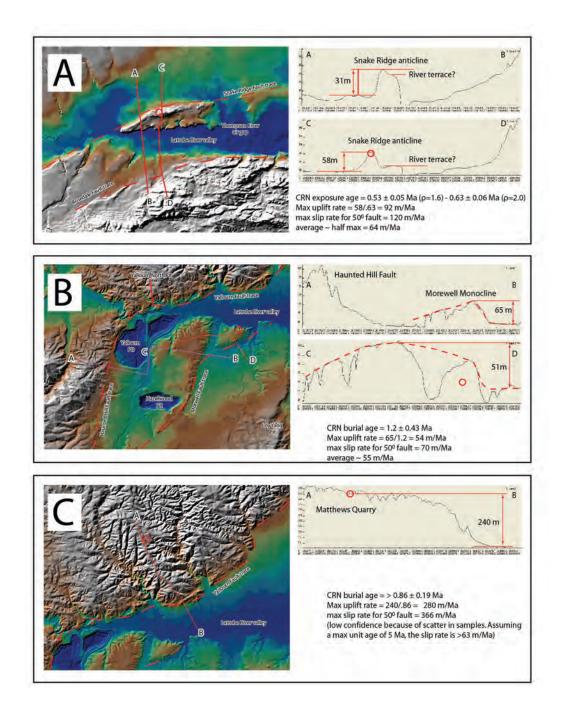


Figure 28 – Context of onshore Gippsland Basin CRN samples (marked with open red circles). Locations of panels are shown in Figure 27. (a) 20 m DEM over the Snake Ridge Monocline. The Latrobe River cuts a shallow E-W oriented canyon through the uplifted block. A wind-gap relating to a former course of the Thomson River occurs near the eastern edge of the ridge. (b) 10 m DEM over the Morwell Monocline and Haunted Hills Fault. Morwell fault trace position is derived from SEC borehole data (Guy Holdgate, pers. comm., 2009). Note narrow canyon that the Latrobe River has cut through the uplifted block relating to the Haunted Hill Fault. Northern and southern pits relate to the Yallourn and Hazelwood open cut coal mines, respectively. (c) 10 m DEM over the Yallourn Fault trace. The geology on the north side of the Yallourn Fault is dominated by Lachlan Fold Belt basement rocks. However, remnants of Cretaceous Gippsland Basin rocks and Haunted Hill Gravels occur close to the fault trace (VandenBerg 1971).

Extensive normal faulting of the HHF overburden is evident in the Loy Yang Dome region (Figure 29a, see Figure 28b for location – the Loy Yang Pit is excavated into the Loy Yang Dome), and is also reported from face of the Morwell Monocline (Gloe 1960; Barton 1981) and Yallourn North open cut (Gloe 1960). In the case of the Morwell Monocline, surface normal faulting is interpreted to relate to flexure on the crest of the monocline in response to reverse faulting at depth (Barton 1981) (Figure 29c). This hypothesis plausibly accounts for the normal faulting seen at Yallourn and Loy Yang, as reverse faulting is known from deeper in both sections (e.g. Beavis 1975) (e.g. Figure 29b).





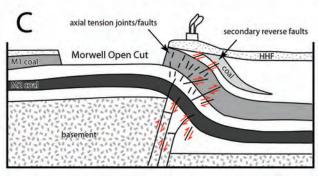


Figure 29 – Style of Gippsland Basin neotectonic features. (a) southern batters of Loy Yang open cut mine showing normal faulting displacing the base of the HHF. (b) secondary reverse faulting within Loy Yang Open cut mine at a deeper structural level than (a). (c) schematic structural section based upon the Morwell open cut mine (after Barton 1981) tying together shallow and deep observations. It is proposed that this section is relevant to most monoclines in the Latrobe Valley.

Long-term slip rate estimates for the Gippsland Basin are subject to the same uncertainty as those in the Otway Basin stemming from apparent episodic pulses of regional deformation. The parallelism and conformable nature of most Pliocene strandlines across Victoria has been taken as evidence for very little tectonism in the interval 6-3 Ma (Wallace *et al.* 2005). In the eastern onshore Gippsland Basin an angular unconformity between the Jemmy's Point formation (Pliocene) and the overlying Haunted Hill Formation (late Pliocene to Quaternary) suggests significant post 3 Ma deformation. Seismic reflection evidence combined with palynological age constraint suggests that a major episode of deformation involving folding ceased at 1.0 Ma in the offshore Gippsland Basin while continuing onshore until approximately 0.2-0.25 Ma (Holdgate *et al.* 2003). Based upon this chronology, the same authors estimated an uplift rate of 50-80 m/Ma for the Rosedale Fault over the interval 1.5-0.25 Ma, which equates to a slip rate of < 105 m/Ma for a 50° dipping fault. Assuming constant slip from 1.5 Ma to present, the rate becomes 88 m/Ma, comparable to that estimated for the Yallourn Fault. Gardner et al. (2009) obtained slip rates on the Waratah Fault (see Figure 27 for location) of 10-40 m/Ma for displacements across both 125 ka and Pliocene marine terraces, suggesting periodic rupture behaviour in contrast to the above-mentioned faults.

On the Western Australian margin, a series of asymmetric anticlines (e.g. Cape Range, Barrow Island, Rough Range, Giralia, Cape Cuvier, Cape Peron, Dirk Hartog Island anticlines) have developed as fault propagation folds above blind wrench and oblique reverse faults in the Carnarvon Basin (McWhae *et al.* 1956; Hocking 1988; Hillis *et al.* 2008) (Figure 30). The trend of the anticlines and their underlying faults changes from northwest in the southern basin through northerly in the central basin to northeast in the northern basin, in part mimicking the cratonic margin and the trends of underlying Mesozoic wrench structures (Malcolm *et al.* 1991; Keep *et al.* 2002) (Figure 30). The growth of fault propagation anticlines is generally dated as Miocene and younger (e.g. Barber 1988; Crostella & Iasky 1997; Keep *et al.* 2000; Hearty *et al.* 2002; Keep *et al.* 2002), and is typically not related to the major basin-bounding faults (as has also been demonstrated for the Darling Fault in the Perth Basin, Jakica et al. (2010)). Seismic reflection imaging suggests that the loci of reactivation are dominantly steep, flower-type structures, and that significant inversion and the formation of transpressional anticlines is restricted to one or two major faults within the flower (Malcolm *et al.* 1991; Keep *et al.* 2000; Keep *et al.* 2002).

Emerged Pleistocene marine terraces on the Cape Range Anticline (Figure 31), overlying the Learmonth Fault (Crostella & Iasky 1997, Figure 19), and anticlinal folds in offshore Plio-Quaternary sea floor sediments (van de Graaff *et al.* 1976; Wyrwoll *et al.* 1993), indicate that Neogene deformation has continued to at least the last interglacial. Faults in the entirely-offshore Browse Basin appear to be similar in character (Symonds *et al.* 1994; Keep *et al.* 2002). Evidence interpreted to suggest that the last interglacial terrace has been tectonically uplifted to the south to form the 'Cape Cuvier Anticline' (Denman & van de Graaff 1976; Veeh *et al.* 1979) has recently been challenged (O'Leary *et al.* 2008). Preliminary ³⁶Cl cosmogenic radionuclide dates from a terrace 10-15 m above present sea level on the Cape Range (the Jurabi Terrace of van de Graaf et al. (1976)) are consistent with a Marine Isotope Stage 7 (*ca.* 200 ka) age for formation of the surface

(Geoscience Australia, unpublished data). In contrast to the last interglacial (MIS Stage 5), where sea level may have reached up to 3-4 m higher than present (e.g. Zhu *et al.* 1993), sea level is not thought to have exceeded present levels during MIS Stage 7 (Siddall *et al.* 2003). This implies uplift rates on the underlying Learmonth Fault of a few tens of metres per million years, similar to faults in the eastern inverting basins. There is a suggestion in topographic profiles (Figure 31b) that this uplift is heterogeneously distributed along the western coastline of the Cape Range. A northerly dip on the cliff-base notch at the landward edge of the terraces is apparent and can be correlated for a

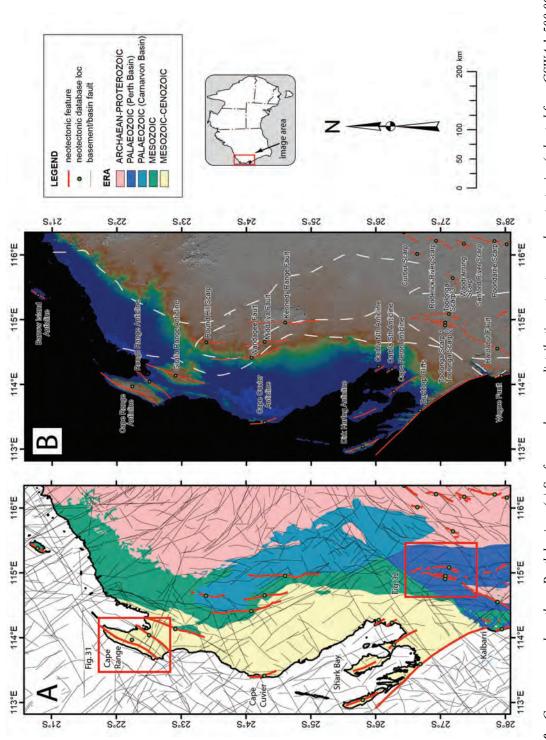


Figure 30 – Carnarvon and northern Perth basins. (a) Surface geology age distribution, structure and neotectonics (adapted from GSWA 1:500 000 scale digital geology), and (b) 90 m SRTM DEM showing major topographic uplift relating to neotectonic inversion of Carnarvon Basin extensional structures, and general proportional elevation relationship with decreasing geologic age.

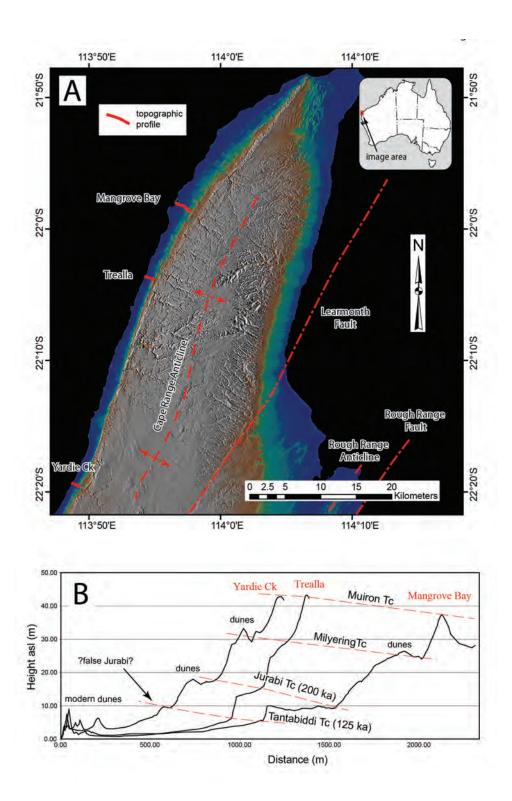


Figure 31 – Topography and structure of the Cape Range Anticline. (a) 10 m DLI DEM data showing major structure, and position of elevation traverses. Note that anticline crest elevation decreases to the south. (b) Total station elevation traverses showing distinct wave cut terraces on the western flank of the anticline. Note apparent increase in elevation of correlative terrace surfaces to the south, consistent with anticline growth in this direction. Location of figure shown on Figure 30a.

distance of ~ 25 km. The last interglacial surface (Tantabiddi terrace) also appears to follow this trend.

In parts of the Carnarvon and northern Perth Basins adjacent to the cratons, where structures relating to Palaeozoic extension dominate over those related to Mesozoic extension, and evidence for Neogene extension is sparse, neotectonic features appear to be intermediate in character between basin and craton features (see also Western and Central Australia section). Clusters of scarps, coinciding with mapped basement structure, occur in the Midalya/Kennedy Range area east of Cape Cuvier, and the Toolonga area east of Shark Bay (Figure 30). The Toolonga group of scarps include features greater than 60 km in length and with up to 30 m of vertical displacement (Figure 32). Regressive marine strandlines of unknown age have been uplifted across these features, with the total uplift across the fault group being in the order of 90 m (Figure 32, section A-B). If it were speculated that the ridges are early Pliocene in age (similar to the Murray Basin ridges in eastern Australia), modest surface uplift rates are obtained. The onshore Canning Basin (including the Fitzroy Trough), and the Bonaparte Basin might also be placed in this intermediate category, though only one feature is known (the Munro scarps).

The geometry of, and relationships between, neotectonic faults in the inverted basins around the margins of Australia is largely inherited from the original extensional basin architecture (e.g. Hocking 1988; Williamson *et al.* 1991; Keep *et al.* 2000; Keep *et al.* 2002) (e.g. Figure 25). Faults bound topography (e.g. the Otway, Strzelecki and Cape Ranges) (Figures 25, 27 & 31) and form interlinked anastomosing networks that extend in some cases for hundreds of kilometres. There is an indication that the level of neotectonic activity in a given inverting system bears a relationship to how long prior to compression the last major basin-structuring extensional event occurred. For example, there is a progression of increasing neotectonic activity from the parts of the Carnarvon Basin formed mainly in the Palaeozoic, to those where extension continued to the Mesozoic, and perhaps early Cenozoic (see Figure 30). Similarly, the Fitzroy Trough attained its major structural architecture in the Palaeozoic, was relatively little effected by Mesozoic Gondwana break-up, and is today less neotectonically active than parts of the Canning Basin that were involved in Mesozoic breakup (e.g. Keep *et al.* 2007, Figure 17). Similar conclusions may be drawn from extended margins around Australia (Blevin & Cathro 2008).

Australian Neotectonic domains

In the previous section the general characteristics of neotectonic features known from across Australia were explored. From this it is clear that there is regional variation in the response of the Australian continental crust to the imposed tectonic forces, and in the character of the neotectonic features that accommodate that response. For example, compare the isolated, low displacement faults of the Southwest Seismic Zone (Figure 3), the *en echelon* network of high-density, relatively high-displacement faults in the Mt Lofty and Flinders Ranges (Figure 11), the anastomosing network of highly interlinked, relatively high-displacement faults in the Carnarvon, Otway and Gippsland Basins (Figures 25, 27 & 30), and the relatively isolated, moderate to high displacement features arranged in belt-like patterns in the Murray Basin and Eastern Highlands (Figures 16 & 17). Clark & Van Dissen (2006) made a first attempt to discriminate between the characters of faults from different regions (see Table 1 for a modified version of their table). It is reasonable to assume that this variation arises as the result of the interaction between the crustal stress field (e.g. Hillis & Reynolds 2003) and continental crust of varying character. Hence, large earthquake occurrence behaviours might be extrapolated from regions rich in data to those poor in data by mapping regions of similar crustal properties, with the caveat that changing stress conditions (magnitude and

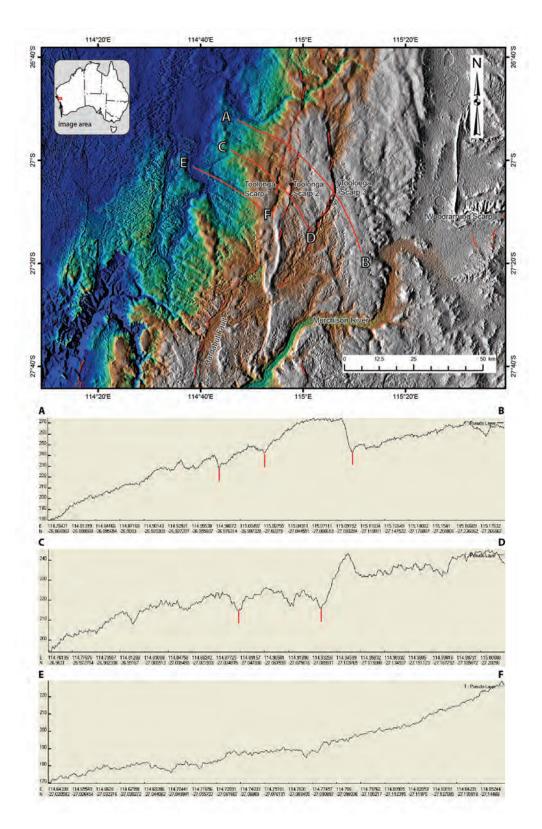


Figure 32 – 90m SRTM DEM data over a cluster of scarps in the Toolonga region of the northernmost Perth Basin (Murchison District). Note prominent regressive strandline ridges are uplifted across the scarps. Note also that to the southwest of the image strandlines are uplifted on the up-thrown block of the Hardabut Fault, providing evidence for neotectonic movement on this feature. Location of figure shown on Figure 30a.

Table 1 - Subjective comparison of fault characteristics across Australia, which are used as the basis for a subjective discrimination of Neotectonic Domains.

Neotectonic region	Western and central Australia	Nullarbor	Flinders/Mt Lofty Ranges	Eastern Australia	Mesozoic extended crust
Completeness of active fault dataset	high in SW, low elsewhere	moderate to high	moderate in Mt Lofty and northern Flinders Ranges, low elsewhere	moderate to high in Victoria, moderate to low elsewhere	moderate to high in onshore settings
Number of known and suspected active faults*	~80-100	40-50	40-50 (a dozen more occur on the Eyre and Yorke peninsulas)	~40-50^	40-50
Relative density of known and suspected active faults	low	low to moderate	moderate to high	low to high (clustered)	moderate (high in Gippsland/Otway)
Relationship between active faults to building of ranges	no relation between active faults and large-scale topography, except perhaps in the Carnarvon Basin	no relation between active faults and subdued large-scale topography	ranges bound by active faults	typically no relation between active faults and large-scale topography, but locally some active faults do bound ranges	typically no relation between active faults and large-scale topography, but locally some active faults do bound ranges
Relative historic seismicity rate	moderate to high in SW, low elsewhere	very low	high	moderate (low in the north)	moderate to high in onshore settings
Relationship of historic seismicity to known active faults	concentrated where there have been historic surface ruptures, rarely associated with pre-historic fault scarps	no association with pre-historic scarps	well defined belt of high seismicity, locally associated with pre-historic fault scarps	no clear association with pre-historic local clear association with pre- fault scarps	local clear association with pre- historic fault scarps
Post ca. 10 Ma displacement on known active faults	10 m or less	10 m or less, rarely 30 m	many with displacements up to ~100- 150 m	many less than 10 m, some up to 100- 200 m	many with displacements up to ∼100- many less than 10 m, some up to 100-many less than 50 m, some up to 200 m
Number of post ca. 10 Ma ruptures on an individual fault	few (<5?)	no data (likely to be <5-10)	many (several tens or more)	few to many	many (several tens or more)
Examples	Hyden, Meckering, Lort River	Roe Plain, Mundrabilla	Wilkatana, Millendala, Burra, Para	Khancoban, Cadell, Lake George, Lake Edgar, D'Aguillar Range, Palmerville	Rosedale monocline, Fergusson Hill monocline, Rough Range Fault.

* most regions are under explored, and the level of study is not homogeneous within and between regions. For example, large areas of NW Western Australia are shown as having no active faults. This may largely be a consequence of the area having not been studied.

* relationships based upon the better-studied SW portion of this region

* several features in Victoria are based upon subsurface mine records of faulted Late Tertiary (10-3 Ma) basalts, where faulting has no surface expression. Further records associate concentrations of small enathquakes with large scarps.

orientation) may modify the activity level. Clark (2006) developed these ideas and proposed a preliminary neotectonic domains model for continental Australia, in a similar way that seismicity source zones are defined upon the basis of the historic earthquake catalogue (Gaull *et al.* 1990; Brown & Gibson 2004). As part of the present study, an attempt was made to objectively derive domains by statistically analysing the data to test for geographic variance of characteristics (cluster analysis). This proved unsuccessful due to large uncertainties and spread in the data.

Below we present a revision of the Clark (2006) domain boundaries, refined through assessment of detailed geological and geophysical data (Figure 33). Essentially, we have extrapolated from areas rich in neotectonic data to areas relatively poor in data by assessing the properties of the crust (e.g. age, geologic history, geophysical signature, etc.) across the continent. For example, high resolution DEM data in the southwest corner of the Yilgarn Craton has revealed many neotectonic scarps (Figure 3). The relatively poorly exposed and poorly explored northern and eastern parts of the Yilgarn Craton, and perhaps the similarly ancient Pilbara and Gawler Cratons, might be expected to behave similarly. Following this logic, the next section details the revision of the boundaries for six onshore domains in an attempt to group the neotectonic fault data. We also present the results of a comparative analysis of three key variables (fault length, vertical displacement, and fault density), both at the key variable and domain levels. This permits us to explore an expanded neotectonics database (see Appendix Table 1) in terms of variations in parameters such as maximum magnitude earthquake (M_{max}). A seventh, entirely offshore domain is defined based upon analogue studies with the central and eastern USA (Wheeler 1995, 1996; Wheeler & Frankel 2000; Wheeler 2009b).

There remains an inherent bias in the database in that there is little data in existence for much of northern Australia. This is due to a combination of factors, relating mainly to preservation and discoverability, as detailed in previous sections. In southern Australia, bias may similarly have been introduced by not including all faults within a deforming system in the analysis, as some that have neotectonic expression are not well enough characterised to have been included (e.g. Kongwak Monocline), or were not active in the database at the time of access (blue features on Figure 33). It is important to note that all features within the database are assigned a level of uncertainty as to whether they are neotectonic faults (see Appendix Table 1). Future work will almost certainly demonstrate that some features have been misidentified and are not neotectonic. However, for the purpose of this analysis all structures in the database are assumed to have an equal probability of being neotectonic in the current stress regime.

GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL DEFINITION OF DOMAIN BOUNDARIES

Below, the characteristics of the seven domains are discussed, and justifications provided for the positioning of domain boundaries (see Figure 33). Continental scale geologic and geophysical datasets provided guidance in terms of the gross division of crustal units (Wellman 1976; Palfreyman 1984; Shaw *et al.* 1996; Murray 1997; Blake 2000; FrOGTech 2005), and a range of finer scale data sets were consulted to adjust domain boundaries (see below).

Precambrian Craton Domain

This domain comprises highly structured Archaean and non-reactivated Palaeoproterozoic crust that was largely cratonised prior to the Mesoproterozoic (e.g. Palfreyman 1984; Shaw *et al.* 1996). The central rift of the McArthur Basin (see Figure 33), which was cratonised in the early Mesoproterozoic (e.g. Scott *et al.* 2000), does not appear to be anomalous within this context (c.f. Johnston *et al.* 1994). The seismic character of this domain is considered to be typified by that observed for the south west of the Yilgarn Craton (Clark 2010). Scarps are typically isolated and less than 40 km long, with less than 10 m of neotectonic displacement (see Table 1, "Western and

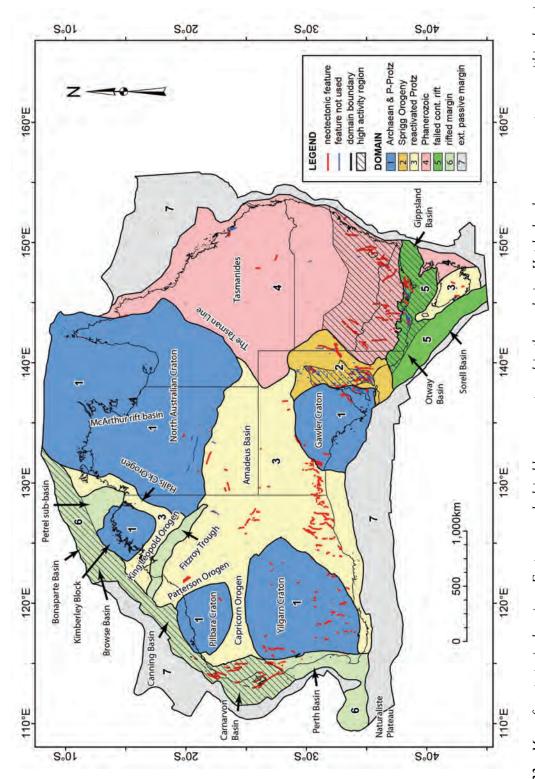


Figure 33 – Map of neotectonic domains. Features marked in blue were not used in the analysis. Hatched polygons represent areas within domains of relatively higher activity, and should not be compared between domains. Note that the South West Seismic Zone does not appear as a zone of enhanced neotectonic activity. See text for justification of domain boundaries.

central Australia"). However, there are exceptions in the northwest corner of the Yilgarn Craton where scarps tend to be longer and closer together (in the Mt Narryer region), and in eastern Gawler Craton where closely spaced scarps are arranged in an *en echelon* pattern (c.f. on the Eyre Peninsula). These may be related to stress concentration at the margins of the cratons.

It should be noted that there is no evidence in the neotectonic record (Clark 2010) to suggest that the region denoted the Southwest Seismic Zone (Doyle 1971a), so-called because of an anomalous concentration of epicentres in the last 50 years, is associated with a high level of neotectonic activity. Furthermore, models attempting to reproduce the pattern of historic epicentres concentrated in proximity to the Australian continental margin (Sandiford & Egholm 2008) do not predict the pattern of neotectonic scarps.

Sprigg Orogeny Domain

The margins of this domain mimic the extent of the sedimentary rocks that were deposited in the Neoproterozoic Adelaide Rift Complex, were later strongly affected by the Delamerian Orogeny (Preiss 1987; Drexel et al. 1993), and are now being affected by the Sprigg Orogeny (Sandiford 2003b). While it may be argued that the Mundi Mundi Fault system (Hill & Kohn 1998) should form part of the eastern boundary of the domain, and the Broken Hill Block part of Domain 3 (see below), for consistency the domain boundary follows the interpreted position of the Tasman Line over its full length (Wellman 1976; Direen & Crawford 2003) until the Otway Basin is encountered (c.f. Glen 2005). The western margin of the domain follows the interpreted position of the Torrens Hinge Zone (Preiss 1987; Drexel et al. 1993), which is believed to have been the western extent of rifting during the breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia (e.g. Glen 2005). The northwestern boundary is somewhat arbitrarily defined based upon the limit of significant concentrations of historic seismicity. The core of the domain encompasses the remarkable Sprigg Orogen (Sandiford 2003b), which continues to build in relief today along the axes of the Flinders and Mt Lofty Ranges, and is thus distinct from all other reactivated Proterozoic crust within the Australian continent (c.f. Domain 3). The seismic character of this domain is defined by the type-faults detailed in Sandiford (2003b), Celerier et al. (2005) and Quigley et al. (2006), being closely spaced, intimately connected to youthful topography, and hosting up to two hundred metres of neotectonic displacement. There is an excellent correlation between contemporary seismicity and broad neotectonic uplift in this domain, which may have built 50% of its modern relief within the neotectonic era (e.g. Braun et al. 2009).

While the pattern of faulting on the northeastern Eyre Peninsula is very similar to that seen in the Mt Lofty Ranges (compare Figures 11 and 15b), although with significantly smaller neotectonic displacements, the nature of the crust on the Eyre Peninsula is more akin to the Gawler Craton element of Domain 1. These faults have therefore been assigned to Domain 1, with the caveat that strain localisation across the domain boundary may explain their anomalous character.

Reactivated Proterozoic Crust Domain

The Australian continent (west of the Tasman Line) is criss-crossed by eroded orogenic belts that were active in the Proterozoic assembly of Australia. These orogenic belts, or mobile belts, encircle the Domain 1 cratonic nuclei (Figure 33) and tend to be reactivated time and again (e.g. Fitzsimons 2003; Betts & Giles 2006; Neumann & Fraser 2007). While there is much diversity in the timing and the pervasiveness of the last reactivation of each mobile belt (ranging from Mesoproterozoic to Devonian/Carboniferous) (e.g. Haines *et al.* 2001; Betts & Giles 2006), neotectonic features appear similar in character. Scarps tend to be longer than in Domain 1, and there is an indication of organisation, perhaps reflecting the strong and linear structural grain present in most mobile belts. An excellent long-term record of deformation of this type of crust is evidenced on the Nullarbor

Plain (Hillis *et al.* 2008), which is floored by the Proterozoic Albany-Fraser/Wilkes Orogen (Fitzsimons 2003). While little neotectonic data exists for the Capricorn, Patterson, King Leopold and Halls Creek Orogens they might be expected to behave in a similar fashion by virtue of their demonstrated susceptibility to reactivation throughout geologic time (e.g. Betts & Giles 2006; Neumann & Fraser 2007; Occhipinti & Reddy 2009).

Western Tasmania has been tentatively placed within this domain based upon the widespread exposure of Neoproterozoic rocks, metamorphism and deformation fabrics (e.g. Berry *et al.* 2008), and its pre-Delamerian Orogeny correlation with crust west of the Tasman Line (Glen 2005, Figure 1). Despite a long Palaeozoic deformation history, and the proposal that analogous Proterozoic basement floors the Selwyn Block in the Lachlan Fold Belt to the north (Cayley *et al.* 2002), we maintain that the character of the scarps is more akin to those of Domain 3 than those in Domain 4. Furthermore, there is little record of the rifting history that might align it with Domain 2, nor the strong organisation of scarps.

Eastern Australian Phanerozoic Accretionary Terranes Domain: the Tasmanides

This domain includes the five Phanerozoic Tasmanide orogens (Glen 2005), and excludes western Tasmania (part of Domain 3) and the Adelaide rift complex (Domain 2) (Figure 34). Following the breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia in the Late Neoproterozoic, and the formation of a passive margin along the east coast of Proterozoic Australia (the so-called Tasman Line), a series of five convergent margin orogenic belts formed (the Delamerian, Lachlan, Thomson, New England, and North Queensland Orogens, Figure 34) and accreted to the eastern seaboard from Middle Cambrian to Jurassic (Direen & Crawford 2003; Glen 2005).

The neotectonic record from this domain is restricted almost entirely to the Lachlan and Delamerian Orogens (approximated by the high neotectonic activity polygon marked on Figure 33, see also concentration of features in Figure 34). Given significant historic seismicity (Figure 34), it seems likely that further features remain to be discovered in the high-relief and relatively high-erosion regions of the New England and North Queensland Orogens. However, large changes in crustal stress orientation and possibly magnitude (Hillis & Reynolds 2003) centred on the New England Orogen may act to suppress neotectonic activity (cf. Figure 1). It is possible that the surface expression of earthquakes that nucleate in Thomson Orogen crust is subdued or suppressed by the cover rocks of the Cooper/Eromanga Basin. Alternatively, the low seismic activity rates recorded in historic times (Figure 34) may be a true indication of long term low levels of crustal deformation.

As palaeoseismic data within this domain are only available from the Cadell Fault, it is not yet possible to assign a seismic character to domain-wide faulting with confidence. However, it is not implausible that faults within this domain behave like the Cadell Fault, at least in terms of pronounced temporal clustering of surface rupture that might cumulatively amount to tens to a couple of hundreds of metres of displacement over the neotectonic era. The Kurrajong Fault within the Lapstone Structural Complex west of Sydney suggests caution in applying blanket rules within this domain. Only 15 m of the 130 m throw across this fault appears to be neotectonic (McPherson *et al.* 2009), whereas the Cadell Fault displaces Late Miocene and younger strata by more than 50-60 m (e.g. Clark *et al.* 2007), and the Lake George Fault impounds up to 200 m of late Miocene and younger sediment (Singh *et al.* 1981).

Eastern Extended Continental Crust Domain

Domain 5 comprises continental crust extended during the breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana in the late Mesozoic and overlain by thick sedimentary basin sequences (the Gippsland, Otway, Bass and Sorell Basins). The main regions of neotectonic activity centre on an aulocogen (a failed intra-

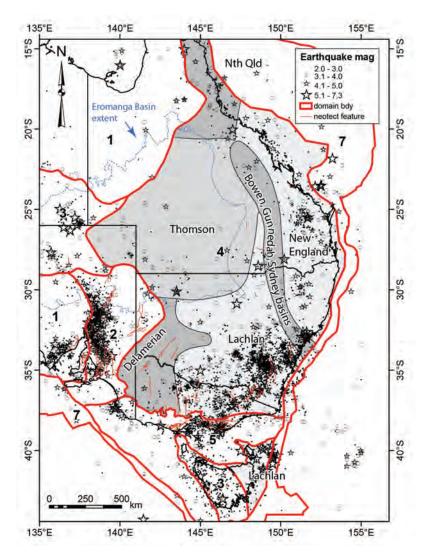


Figure 34 – Internal structure of the Tasmanides Domain (after Glen 2005). Strong northerly structural grains are predominant in all bar the southern Thomson Orogen, where easterly trends are typical. The Thomson Orogen forms the basement to the Cooper/Eromanga Basins.

cratonic rift - cf. Burke 1977) that developed between Tasmania and the mainland during the separation of Australian and Antarctica, and reactivated during the opening of the Tasman Sea (Veevers 2000). This aulocogen is overlain by the Gippsland, Bass and eastern Otway Basins. Seismic data clearly shows Neogene reverse reactivation of Mesozoic normal faults throughout these basins (Hill *et al.* 1994; Dickinson *et al.* 2002; Holdgate *et al.* 2003; Cummings *et al.* 2004; Blevin *et al.* 2005). Although palaeoseismic data is lacking, slip rate data, typically averaged over the last hundred thousand to a few million years, is available (e.g. Sandiford 2003a; Gardner *et al.* 2009).

The Sorell Basin (west of the Tasman Rise) is included in the domain as it is generally considered to be continuous with the western Otway Basin (Boreham *et al.* 2002; Krassay *et al.* 2004; Blevin & Cathro 2008). However, the prominent inversion structures that are characteristic of the Gippsland and Otway Basins, and to a lesser degree the Bass Basin (e.g. Blevin *et al.* 2005), appear to be much more subtle to absent in the Sorell Basin, suggesting lower activity (Boreham *et al.* 2002). This is perhaps analogous to the relationship between the active Carnarvon Basin and comparatively less active Perth Basin, as detailed in the following section. The D'Aguilar Ranges Fault, which occurs on the boundary of the Sorell Basin and Proterozoic Tasmanian basement rocks, may be more

representative of minor inversion in the basin than typical activity in the Tasmanian Proterozoic crust.

Western Extended Continental Crust Domain

This domain comprises extended Precambrian and Palaeozoic crust flooring five marginal and offshore basins (Perth, Carnarvon, offshore Canning, Browse, and Bonaparte; see Figure 33) and their Mesozoic and Cenozoic (± late Palaeozoic) sedimentary fill rocks. Similar to Domain 5, most neotectonic activity focuses on the basins that primarily relate to Mesozoic fragmentation of Gondwana (Veevers 1972, 2000; Longley et al. 2002), and particularly those on the Northwest Shelf (i.e. Cape Range and north). However, 'subtle' Neogene reactivation of some basin segments, formed predominantly as the result of Palaeozoic rifting (e.g. Fitzroy Trough of the onshore Canning Basin, Petrel Trough of the Bonaparte Basin, Southern Carnarvon Basin, Northern Perth Basin), has been noted (Denman & van de Graaff 1976; Craig et al. 1984; Baillie & Jacobson 1995; Keep et al. 2007). The southern Perth Basin, which primarily developed in the Mesozoic, is also less active than basins further north, and may be considered to be similar to the Sorrell Basin in Domain 5. The onshore Canning Basin, excepting the Fitzroy Trough, is excluded from this domain as it is considered that the Precambrian basement dictates the seismic character rather than the thin cover sediments, in a similar fashion to faults cutting the Nullarbor Plain (cf. Domain 3). Future exploration may require revision of this assertion. Similarly, future data collection may identify the affinity of the Naturaliste Plateau as better aligned with Domain 3 rather than Domain 6 (e.g. Halpin et al. 2008), and parts of the Browse/Bonaparte Basins may require classification into a new nonintraplate domain given the affinity of deformation patterns found there with those further north associated with the Timor collision (Keep et al. 2007).

While no palaeoseismological information exists for single earthquake events, the neotectonic character of this domain is very similar to the Gippsland and Otway Basins, with large anticlines overlying inverting normal faults, here exemplified by the Cape Range and Rough Range Anticlines (Malcolm *et al.* 1991). In the case of the Fitzroy Trough, seismic reflection imaging shows that the major northern bounding fault has been reactivated to an extent during the Neogene (Keep *et al.* 2007), and is associated with a high level of historic seismicity (Figure 35, ~17°S 122°E). This subsidiary style of deformation may dominate in the Palaeozoic parts of the domain (e.g. the Perth Basin and southern Carnaryon Basin proximal to the shield).

Passive Margin Extended and Transitional Crust Domain

This domain contains extended, highly extended and transitional continental crust from the edge of the continental shelf (or adjacent neotectonic domain) out to the Continental/Oceanic Crust Boundary (Blake 2000; FrOGTech 2005). This "passive margin" domain formed as the result of the Mesozoic break-up of the supercontinent Gondwana (Veevers 2000). While there is no neotectonic data with which to characterise this domain, an appreciable number of Australian historic earthquakes of magnitude 5 and above are located either within this domain, or near the boundary of this domain and adjacent domains (Figure 35). Similar crust on the eastern seaboard of the United States hosted the M7+ Charleston earthquake sequence (Johnston 1996; Talwani & Schaeffer 2001), flagging this domain type as a potential source of damaging ground shaking (e.g. Wheeler 1995, 1996; Wheeler & Frankel 2000; Wheeler 2009b).

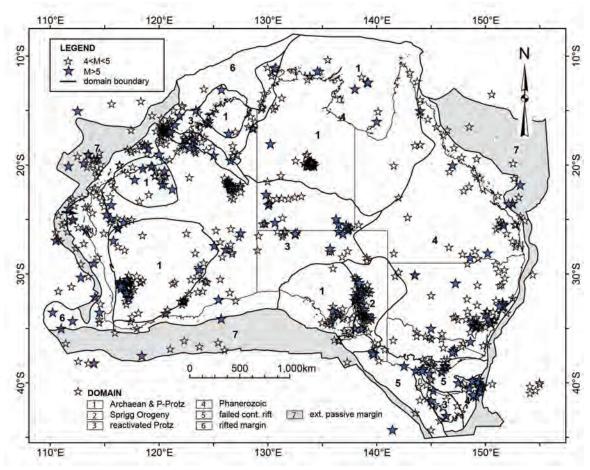


Figure 35 – *Relationship of historic earthquakes of M>4 to Neotectonic Domain boundaries.*

Comparative analysis of neotectonic domains data

The data from individual faults can be used to establish patterns (in space and time) of rupture, and provides a basis for deciding whether insights gained from neotectonic fault data in one region may be confidently extrapolated to faults occurring in a different region. The following section presents the characteristics of each of the neotectonic domains that we have defined for the Australian continent (Figure 33). The Australian Neotectonics Database (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data) houses the data used to test this domains hypothesis (accessed 31 July 2009, see Appendix Table 1). This data is derived from disparate sources which include the results of in-house DEM reconnaissance, published and unpublished reports, geological maps, and in a small number of cases, data from field investigations (e.g. Figure 2). Ideally, an active fault source should be characterised in terms of the geometry of its rupture plane, knowledge of the size and frequency of large earthquakes associated with that rupture (with an idea of variability), and perhaps an indication of whether the fault may be influenced by neighbouring active faults. However, in most cases the geometry of the rupture plane underlying a surface scarp, and the large earthquake recurrence behaviour on that rupture plane, are unknown or subjectively defined. The data currently compiled for Australia does, however, contain a small number of semi-quantitative key variables. As demonstrated below, these variable populations are subject to a level of uncertainty in their derivation, and also possess a common trait of non-normal distribution. Attempts to statistically normalise the data sets were unsuccessful, and accordingly multivariate statistical analysis of this

data was not possible. Consequently the data have been treated and analysed as ordinal level data. Nonetheless, these three key variables – $fault\ length$, $vertical\ displacement$ and $fault\ density$ - still represent a semi-quantitative data set with which to test the neotectonic domains hypothesis. In addition, $fault\ length$ and $vertical\ displacement$ can be used to estimate maximum magnitude earthquake (M_{max}), while $fault\ density$ has utility in assessing the potential for interaction between faults.

FAULT LENGTH

One of the most important physical characteristics of a fault rupture is its along-strike length, which can be related to the magnitude of the causative earthquake (e.g. Wells & Coppersmith 1994). Estimates of the maximum magnitude earthquake (M_{max}) that a structure is capable of producing can be determined from fault length data (e.g. Stirling *et al.* 2002a; Biasi & Weldon 2006; Wheeler 2009b) after careful consideration of the possibility of segmented rupture. In general, the fault lengths reported here might be expected to be underestimates as vertical displacement tapers towards the tails of ruptures, resulting in lower discoverability. This might be especially the case with those scarps identified in DEM data. For instance, features below 3 m high tend to be obscured by noise in 90 m SRTM DEM data. For a scarp built in only a small number of events, a proportion of the scarp may effectively be invisible.

The population distribution for fault length data is presented in Figure 36. It shows a positive skew (skewness = 1.63; 2 standard errors of skewness = 0.32) with 95% of data having values of less than 120 km, and 75% of data with values below 70 km. There is a vague suggestion of bi-modality, with a potential secondary peak at ~80-90 m. Summary statistics for the fault length data are presented in the inset table in Figure 36.

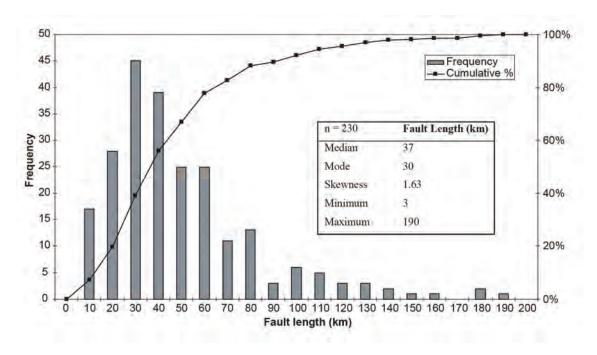


Figure 36 – Cumulative frequency histogram showing a positively skewed distribution for fault length data. Inset table shows summary statistics.

Fault length data for each defined domain are presented in Figure 37. While falling within the range of variability shown by Mesozoic Continental Rift domain (D5) the data suggest that the Archaean and Palaeoproterozoic Craton domain (D1) may be distinguished by virtue of having comparatively short fault lengths (90% less than 55 km long) and a small interquartile range (difference between the 75th and 25th percentiles) of less than 20 km. The Reactivated Proterozoic Craton domain (D3), Eastern Phanerozoic domain (D4) and Western Extended Phanerozoic domain (D6) display comparable median fault length values. Domains D3 and D4 also possess similar interquartile ranges, while D6 shows a larger range with generally higher values. This is not, however, reflected in the maximum value, which is lower than those for both D3 and D4. The Sprigg Orogeny (D2) exhibits slightly longer fault lengths than the D5, but both fall within approximately the same range of variability at the 10th and 90th percentiles. D2 does, however, have a maximum fault length more than twice as long as that in D5. With the exception of outlier values, these domains (D2 and D5) have fairly similar fault lengths, perhaps reflecting the rift-related structural architecture upon which they are founded. The Reactivated Proterozoic (D3) and Eastern Phanerozoic (D4) domains also have broadly similar fault lengths, which are furthermore consistent with those from the Western Extended Phanerozoic domain (D6), although faults in the latter are statistically slightly longer. The Archaean and Palaeoproterozoic Craton domain (D1) is characterised by faults with the shortest relative lengths.

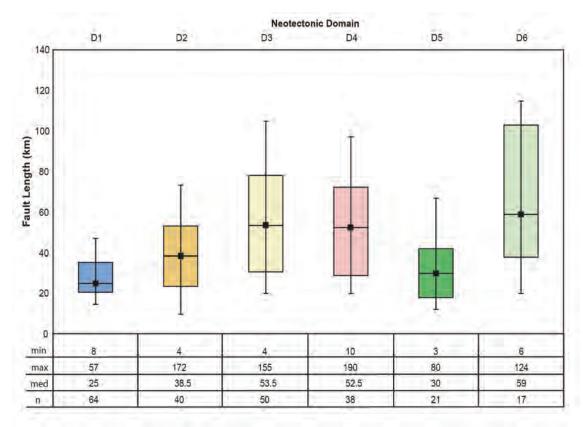


Figure 37 – Box and whisker plot of fault length data for each neotectonic domain. Boxes denote 75th and 25th percentiles, central point indicates median value, and whiskers define 90th and 10th percentiles. Data table shows minimum, maximum and number of data points for each domain. D1 - Archaean Craton and non-reactivated Palaeo-Proterozoic; D2 – Sprigg Orogeny; D3 - Reactivated Proterozoic; D4 - Eastern Australian Phanerozoic; D5 - SE Australian Rifted Crust; D6 - Extended Continental Crust; D7 – extended passive margin crust. Colours correspond to accompanying domain in Figure 33.

VERTICAL DISPLACEMENT

Vertical displacement is a measure of the vertical separation between two sides of a fault as a result of movement on the structure. In general, this parameter is a measure of the highest displacement sustained on a kilometre-scale rather than an average or a maximum value. This measure has been adopted in lieu of fault slip due to the paucity of fault dip data and the dominance in the data set of features defined using DEMs. Uncertainty in the identification and measurement of scarp heights using DEM data might be expected to vary according to the resolution of the DEM, and the acquisition system. For example, DEMs derived from data acquired by airborne systems, such as Photogrammetry and LiDAR, generally have a higher resolution and a lower noise content than those derived from space borne acquisition platforms (e.g. SRTM etc.). However, while features might only become readily identifiable over the noise in SRTM data above 2-3 m relief (e.g. Clark 2010), the relief difference across a scarp can be estimated to greater precision by profiling the step in the noise.

In conjunction with temporal information on fault movement (if known), vertical displacement can be used to estimate slip rate (e.g. Murata *et al.* 2001; Philip *et al.* 2001). Estimates of neotectonic displacement also provide a first order indication of the number of earthquakes that a fault has generated in the current stress regime, given certain assumptions regarding single event slip and segmentation (Leonard & Clark 2006; Clark 2010; Leonard 2010; Leonard & Clark 2010).

Vertical displacement values in the Australian neotectonics database have, in most cases, been determined by measurement of the offset of topographic features (predominantly fault scarps) in digital elevation data, and as a result are subject to the limitations of the data (i.e. resolution and noise content). Spatial resolution issues can bias the displacement values, either through non-detection of smaller, more subdued surface displacements in the landscape, or by over- or underestimation of observed displacements. It is also important to note that vertical displacements are typically minima, as erosion will usually act to reduce relief across a scarp with time. This might not be the case for fault-line scarps, where rocks with different resistances to erosion are brought alongside by movement on a fault. A small number of vertical displacement values found in the database are derived from published and unpublished reports in which measurements of displacement have been recorded. The timing and number of movements associated with a given displacement is usually unknown, but the latter can be estimated using standard relations (e.g. Wells & Coppersmith 1994).

The population distribution for vertical displacement data is presented in Figure 38. It shows a very strong positive skew (skewness = 4.23; two standard errors of skewness = 0.32) with 95% of data values below 150 m, and 75% of data with values less than 40 m. There is a weak suggestion of bimodality in the data set, with a possible secondary peak at around 100 m. The extreme outlier value of 600 m relates to a single structure (Tawonga Fault) in D4. Summary statistics for vertical displacement data are presented in the inset table in Figure 38.

Figure 39 presents vertical displacement data for each defined domain. These data indicate that the D1, D3 and D6 domains have comparable median vertical displacement values of around 10 m and interquartile ranges less than 40 m. The D6 domain does, however, show higher variability (c.f. 10th and 90th percentiles) and a comparatively large range between the median and 75th percentile. The D2, D4 and D5 domains can similarly be grouped on the basis of their median values, which exceed 30 m, and a larger range of variability, particularly above their median values, as indicated by both percentile and interquartile ranges. In essence, this grouping distinguishes domains defining the

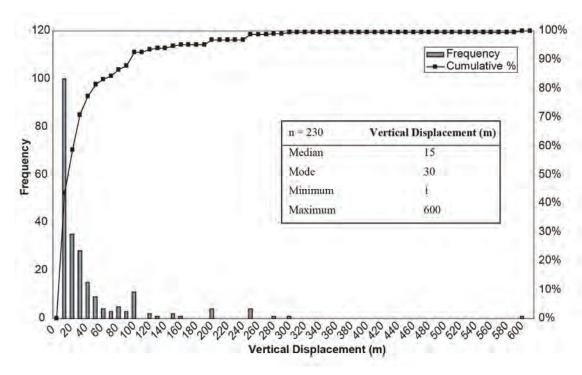


Figure 38 – Cumulative frequency histogram showing a positively skewed distribution for vertical displacement data. Inset table shows summary statistics.

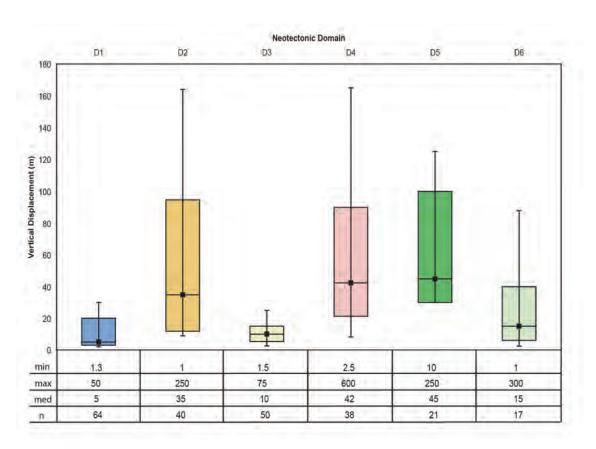


Figure 39 – Box and whisker plot of vertical displacement data for each neotectonic domain. Explanation of symbols and tables as per Figure 37.

central and western parts of the continent from those in the east, with the former showing overall lower displacements and less variability.

FAULT DENSITY

The density or relative spacing of neotectonic faults provides insights into the mechanism of neotectonic strain accommodation for a region (e.g. Cowie & Roberts 2001; Olson & Cooke 2005). This in turn can be related to crustal architecture and composition, and in certain cases, reflects mantle dynamics. In the Australian neotectonics database the relative density of faulting is expressed as the Euclidean distance between the centroid of a mapped fault and the centroid of the next closest fault (i.e. minimum separation distance). It is important to note that this measure may be somewhat misleading for non-parallel faults and faults arranged in along-strike or *en echelon* patterns. Data are presented in decimal degrees in order to account for curvature of the Earth, which can significantly impact estimates of linear distance for widely spaced faults.

The population distribution for data representing the minimum separation distance (MSD) between faults is presented in Figure 40. The distribution is highly positively skewed (skewness = 3.76; two standard errors of skewness = 0.32), with 95% of data values less than 1.5 decimal degrees (\sim 167 km) and 75% with values below 0.6 (\sim 66 km). There is a suggestion of poly-modality in the population, with potential secondary peaks around 0.6-0.7 and 1.4-1.7. However, a paucity of data, particularly at the upper end of the distribution, makes this difficult to test. Summary statistics for MSD data are presented in the inset table in Figure 40.

Figure 41 presents minimum separation distance (MSD) data for each domain. These data suggest that the MSD between faults is almost identical in the D1 and D6 domains, with median values of approximately 0.33-0.34 decimal degrees (~37 km). However, the range of values in D6 is larger. While not as closely matched as D1 and D6, the D2 and D5 domains have similar MSD values. However, D2 does show a far greater range in the 3rd quartile, indicating a slightly broader spacing between structures (larger MSD). The D4 domain has a median MSD value well within the range of the other domains. It also has a comparatively small interquartile range, and while its 90th and 10th percentile ranges generally exceed those for the D2, D3 and D5 domains, they fall within the bounds of those for the D1 and D6 domains. D3 exhibits the highest median MSD, although its 90th and 10th percentiles still fall within the range of those for D1, D4 and D6. Importantly, the domains characterising southern and eastern Australia (D2, D4 and D5) exhibit both the lowest interquartile ranges and median MSD values.

Discussion

DISCRIMINATION OF NEOTECTONIC DOMAINS

As the variation in neotectonic character across the continent is a result of differing crustal response to imposed stresses, the delineation of neotectonic domains according to crustal character seems justified. However, it is apparent that many of the domains are not statistically distinct with respect to the key neotectonic fault variables analysed. That is, for any given variable there is typically a significant degree of commonality in values between domains. In spite of the uncertainty implied by the large range in values, the central tendencies (in this case best described by the median) are instructive.

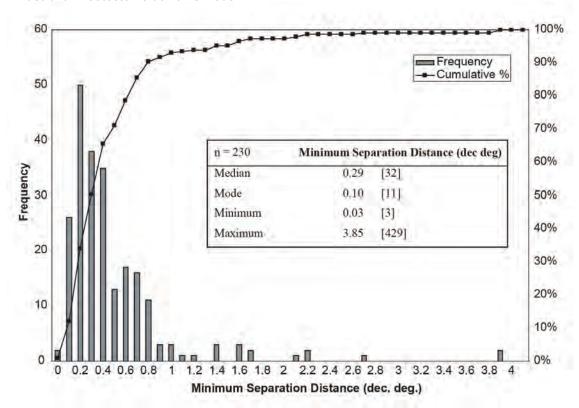


Figure 40 – Cumulative frequency histogram showing a positively skewed distribution for minimum separation distance data. Inset table shows summary statistics for minimum separation distance between faults. Distance units are in decimal degrees with values in brackets denoting approximate distance in kilometres derived using x (km) = ((D*pi*d)/180)*0.001, where D = 6378137 [Earth's diameter: kml: $d = distance \lceil legrees \rceil$.

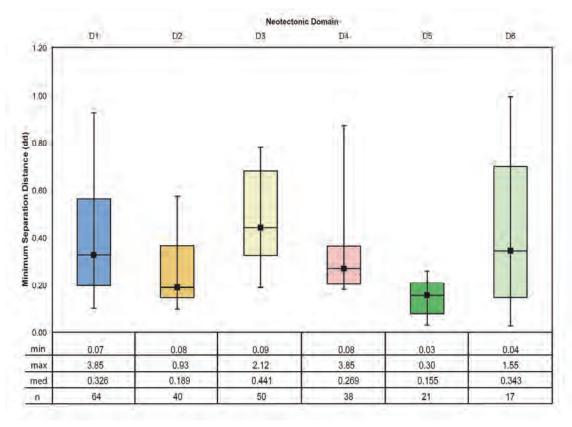


Figure 41 – Box and whisker plot of minimum separation distance data for each neotectonic domain. Explanation of symbols and tables as per *Figure 37*.

The shortest median fault lengths are evident in D1 and D5 (Figure 37). In the case of D1, this is very much likely to be a fundamental property of the highly structured cratonic crust which is being faulted (c.f. Hills 1961; Everingham & Gregson 1996; Dentith & Featherstone 2003; Pandey et al. 2008; Dentith et al. 2009). For example, Dentith et al. (2009) show the 1968 Meckering surface rupture to be strongly controlled by complex bedrock architecture, with individual rupture segments initiating and terminating at intersections between lithology and regional dyke and fault sets. Unpublished aeromagnetic data over the Hyden Scarp, also in southwest Western Australia, show a similar pattern (Geoscience Australia, unpublished data). In the case of D5 the result is counterintuitive as several systems of apparently very long faults are evident (see Figure 27), and this trend appears to continue offshore, for at least the major depocentre-bounding faults (e.g. Williamson et al. 1991; Nelson & Hillis 2005). This latter observation may be the key, as intrabasin faults make up the bulk of database entries - it is often difficult to estimate neotectonic displacements on the larger faults (e.g. the Rosedale Fault in the Gippsland Basin) as dateable displaced strata have been eroded from highly uplifted blocks. In addition, detailed mapping reveals that the larger basin-bounding faults are typically segmented. For example, in the Gippsland Basin the Rosedale and Budgeree faults are continuous along strike and bound the northern margin of the Balook Block, and the Bass, Almurta and Yarragon Fault segments bound the northern margin of the Narracan Block (Figure 27). While not demonstrated by palaeoseismological data, this segmentation may well influence rupture extents. There is a possibility that longer fault lengths in D3, D4 and D6 may in part reflect incomplete characterisation of rupture segmentation. However, a single event displacement of ~ 7 m on the Milendella Fault (D2) and of ~ 5.2 m on the Cadell Fault (D4) suggests that very long scarp lengths are certainly real in some instances.

Median fault lengths from the D3, D4 and D6 domains are similar (Figure 37). This similarity potentially reflects the structural characteristics of the Proterozoic to Phanerozoic fold belts and mobile belts which constitute the basement of the domains (the Perth Basin and southern Carnarvon Basin are floored by the Proterozoic Pinjarra Orogen (Fitzsimons 2003)). The larger range and generally higher values for domain D6 perhaps relate to the reactivation of the mobile belt in extension during Gondwana break-up. However, the character of D6 might be modified substantially if more data were incorporated from the northern offshore part of the domain (i.e. on the Northwest Shelf).

Vertical displacement data distinguish the central and western parts (D1, D3 and D6) from the eastern parts (D2, D4 and D5) of the continent (Figure 39). The central and western domains are characterised by overall lower displacements with less variability, while the eastern domains show larger median displacements with much higher variability. The proportion of older, colder and thicker crust in the ancient cratons and mobile belts that dominate the central and western regions (e.g. Collins *et al.* 2003) may well contribute to the lower displacements. Enhanced heat flow, resulting in a mechanically weaker crust (Celerier *et al.* 2005), contributes to the large displacements, and high fault density (Figure 41), recorded in D2.

Fault density (minimum separation distance) data also broadly distinguish the domains characterising eastern Australia (D2, D4 and D5) from those in central and western Australia (D1, D3 and D6). However, the spatially biased nature of the data set combined with the broad areal extent of several of the domains leads to significant variability, and the generation of a small number of extreme values. This can be readily seen in the domains which extend into the less completely sampled northern parts of Australia (D1, D3, D4 and D6), which have significantly higher 90th percentile values than southerly domains (compare Figures 33 and 41). There is a weak indication in the data that fault density may be used to discriminate deformation styles between cratonic and non-cratonic domains. The interquartile ranges for cratonic domains (D1 and D3), for which little fault

interaction in the upper crust might be expected (e.g. Braun *et al.* 2009; Clark 2010) are larger than for non-cratonic domains where scarps are ordered into *en echelon* or belt-like patterns (D2, D4 and D5 – see next section). D6 does not, however, fit this model. The ratio of median separation distance to median fault length provides an alternative measure of the ability of scarps to interact with each other (Table 2). For non-cratonic domains (D2, D4, D5 and D6) the median separation is consistently half the median fault length, implying significant potential for fault interaction and regional-scale strain localisation. The ratio is much closer to unity for the cratonic domains (D1 and D3), indicating a relatively reduced potential for interaction. The suggestion of bi- and polymodality in all three variable data sets (Figures 36, 38 and 40) leaves open the possibility the populations harbour more discrete sub-populations that may be statistically discernible in a larger data set.

Table 2 – Ratio of minimum fault separation (fault density – see Figure 41) to fault length (see Figure 37).

0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
median separation (~km)	32.6	18.9	44.1	26.9	15.5	34.3
median length (km)	25	38.5	53.5	52.5	30	59
sep/length	1.3	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6

PATTERNS IN LARGE INTRAPLATE EARTHQUAKE RECURRENCE

Both spatial and temporal patterns in large earthquake occurrence are suggested by the neotectonic data presented herein, and have in part guided the discrimination of domains. In most cases interpretation of patterning is speculative, as data is sparse.

Spatial patterning

Each domain is characterised by a unique spatial arrangement of scarps, reflecting the varying response of the crust to the imposed stresses (Figure 1). Scarps are predominantly randomly arranged in D1, and tend to be aligned close to perpendicular to the prevailing maximum compressive stress field trend (Clark 2010). In one case there is an apparent northerly arrangement of scarps (e.g. scarps 4, 39 and 45 in Figure 3), but it is not known if interaction between these faults occurs. Near to the D1 boundaries linear and belt-like spatial arrangement of scarps is more apparent (e.g. scarps 18, 49, 52, 51, 43 and 44 in Figure 3). This trend is apparent on the northwest and eastern boundaries of the Gawler Craton section of D1 also (Figure 33), and might reflect stress concentration associated with crustal rheology changes between cratons and marginal mobile belts.

Linear spatial arrangement is more common in D3, perhaps reflecting the strong structural grain common to orogenic and mobile belts (Figure 33). However, elements of randomly arranged rupture comparable to that found in D1 are apparent on the Nullarbor Plain, suggesting potential bi-modality in character. Similar to D1, scarps are again oriented more or less perpendicular to SH_{Max}. While scarp length in D4 is similar to D3 (Figure 37), linear arrangements dominate in D4. Linear scarps, or complexes of scarps, are arranged in an *en echelon* fashion relative to nearby complexes (e.g. Figure 16) in a belt-like arrangement (c.f. Caskey & Wesnousky 1997). A mix of scarp trends is apparent, from perpendicular to SH_{Max}, to more northerly oriented. These trends in part relate to the dominant structural grains in the different orogens that constitute D4 (c.f. Figure 34).

The western part of D4, within the Delamerian Orogen component of the Tasmanides (Figure 34) is similar in scarp character and arrangement to the eastern part of D2. However, as the axis of the Mt Lofty/Flinders Ranges is approached, the character changes dramatically to much shorter (Figure

37), more closely spaced (Figure 41), and higher displacement (Figure 39) faults arranged in linear and *en echelon* patterns with respect to one another (Figure 11). It is likely that many of these faults link, or at least interact strongly in the subsurface (e.g. Preiss & Faulkner 1984; Paul *et al.* 1999; Somerville *et al.* 2008). Along the axis of the ranges the predominant scarp trend is perpendicular to SH_{Max} .

Domain 5 and the Northwest Shelf region of D6 are characterised by well-linked anastomosing networks of faults. While the fault properties (length, displacement and spacing) are quite different between these domains (Figures 37, 39 & 41), the general characteristic of an inverted basin architecture is common. In the Perth Basin and Southern Carnarvon Basin the arrangement of faults is similar to the Sorell Basin.

Temporal patterning

Temporal patterns in large earthquake occurrence may be inferred at the scale of a single fault (Crone *et al.* 1997), of clusters of faults (Leonard & Clark 2006; Leonard & Clark 2010), and at the domain scale (Braun *et al.* 2009; Clark 2010). While the suite of active fault behaviours may vary across Australia, as implied by the domains model, one individual fault characteristic appears to be common to most Australian intraplate faults studied: active periods comprising a finite number of events are separated by typically much longer periods of quiescence (e.g. Crone *et al.* 2003; Clark & Van Dissen 2006; Clark *et al.* 2007).

Clark & Van Dissen (2006) and Clark et al. (2007) proposed a model to help conceptualise temporal clustering in long-term SCR fault behaviour, and the hazard posed by SCR faults, based largely upon data from the Cadell Fault (Figure 42). The sparse data set available suggests that an active period (T1 and T2 on Figure 42a) might constitute less than a half-dozen events, and perhaps as few as two or three in Western Australia (Figure 2), and the slip rate in an active period might be several orders of magnitude greater than in the long term (e.g. Clark et al. 2007; Clark et al. 2008a). Published data on faults in the west of Australia (Domain 1) suggest that the interseismic intervals between large events in an active period might be in the order of 20 - 40 ka (Crone et al. 1997; Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2008a; Estrada 2009). Data on the Cadell Fault (Clark et al. 2007) indicate more frequent rupture in Domain 4; three times in the interval ca. 70 – 45 ka, and 3 times in the interval ca. 45 – 25 ka. It is inferred that three uplift events on the Cadell Fault had occurred prior to the diversion of the Murray and Goulburn Rivers, suggesting that these events are likely to have been spaced thousands of years apart, similar to the Meers and Cheraw faults in the western central United States (Crone & Luza 1990; Crone & Machette 1995). This contrasts with the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the intraplate central United States, where sequences of large earthquakes have occurred on average every ~ 500 years for at least the last two seismic cycles in the current active period (e.g. Tuttle et al. 2002). Quiescent intervals can be sufficiently prolonged, in the western and central parts of Australia in particular, that most or all relief relating to an active period might be removed by erosion prior to the next active period (Crone et al. 2003; Clark et al. 2007; Clark et al. 2008a).

The earthquake recurrence behaviour model presented in Figure 42a can also be used to express the relative probability for the occurrence of a future event on an SCR active fault (Figure 42b). If a "suspected" active fault has not experienced a surface-breaking earthquake for a very long time, say more than 100 kyr (or at least two mean seismic cycle intervals for an active period), our expectation of an event in the near future will be at some very low or "background" level. It is likely that most if not all of the relief relating to previous ruptures has been removed, either by erosion or depositional (e.g. aeolian) processes, for the majority of such faults (e.g. Meckering, Tennant Creek, Marryat Creek). These faults might not be recognised as active prior to the first event in a new active period.

Subsequent to the first event in a new active period our expectation of a future rupture, say within the following several tens of thousands of years, is greatly elevated (Figure 42b). This expectation will decay with successive ruptures until eventually reaching the "background" level again after the occurrence of only a finite number of events (fewer than ~6 based upon current data). The points critical to understanding the hazard posed by SCR faults, and modelling this hazard probabilistically, become: 1) is the fault in question about to enter an active period, in the midst of an active period, or in a quiescent period; 2) how many large events might constitute an active period, and how many ruptures has the fault generated so far in its current active period (should it be in one); and 3) what is the "mean" recurrence interval in an active period, and what is the variability around this mean? This "mean" can be incorporated statistically into probabilistic seismic hazard assessments (e.g. Stirling *et al.* 2011).

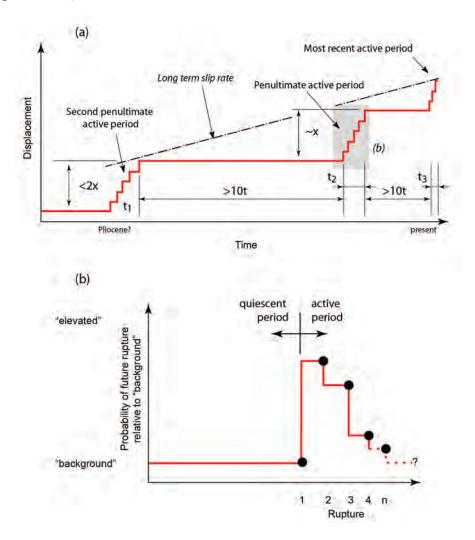


Figure 42 – (a) Generalised fault slip diagram for Australian SCR faults based upon data from the Cadell Fault (Clark et al. 2007). Three active periods of fault growth (earthquake occurrence) are denoted by t1, t2, and t3. These active periods are relatively short lived, and are composed of only a few ruptures each (ca. < 6 events per active period). Inter-event times between successive ruptures within an active period may range up to several thousand to several tens of thousands of years. Long quiescent periods separate the active periods, and the length of the quiescent periods can range from many tens of thousands of years to greater than a million years. (b) detail of (a) expressed in terms of the expectance of a near future event.

When considering the data presented in Figure 2, and the resulting fault behaviour model presented in Figure 42, it is important to be cognisant of the sampling bias inherent in the dataset. The majority of faults listed in Figure 2 are associated with significant and/or distinct topographic relief. In essence, they are the active SCR faults that are most discoverable, and because of this, they are the ones that have been the subject of study. The bias being that the dataset of active SCR faults is dominated by the faults that have been most recently the most active. Active SCR faults that are well into a quiescent phase may be nearly "invisible" in the landscape, are relatively unstudied, and are therefore underrepresented in Figure 2. Nevertheless, focused investigation on such SCR faults could yield data pertinent to testing the fault behaviour model depicted in Figure 42. Another limitation of the SCR fault dataset is that there are few active faults worldwide, like the Cadell Fault, were fault displacement behaviour over several active and quiescent phases has been determined.

There are a number of possible causes of episodic fault behaviour. If more than one active fault exists in a region, and the fault density is sufficiently high (e.g. a fault spacing that is one rupture length or less), then episodic behaviour might be the result of stress interactions between faults. The ratios of median separation to length presented in Table 2 suggest that it is plausible that such behaviour occurs in domains D2, D4, D5, D6 and perhaps D3. However, with the possible exception of faults in the Hyden region (e.g. Clark et al. 2008a), the much lower active fault density in domains D1 and D3 suggests an alternative mechanism. Chéry & Vernant (2006) were able to produce episodic slip behaviour in a single isolated fault embedded in an elastic lithosphere, in which fault stress fluctuations may occur, loaded by plate motion. In this case, deep post-seismic viscous strain can be the source of crustal transient strain that in turn allows earthquake clustering (e.g. Kenner & Segall 1999; Meade & Hager 2004). Possible causes for fault stress fluctuations include climatic change (e.g. crustal water content variation, erosion-depositional processes, Hertzel & Hampel 2005), or perhaps more importantly, self-induced fault weakening/healing (e.g. Ben-Zion et al. 1999). Chéry & Vernant (2006), assuming that weakening or strengthening processes are gradual and due to repeated earthquakes (e.g. Sleep & Blanpied 1992; Ben-Zion et al. 1999), found that if the fault weakening time is small enough (less than several tens of thousands of years), fast slip rate excursions occur, as well as a complete lack of activity.

Braun et al. (2009) suggest a model for the southwest of Western Australia whereby uniform contraction in the ductile lower crust and upper mantle is accommodated by essentially random brittle fracture in the upper crust. This model is supported by the generally non-clustered distribution of palaeoscarps within D1 (Clark 2010) (see also Table 2). However, the remarkable sequence of three surface breaking earthquakes east of Perth in 1968, 1970 and 1979 (Meckering, Calingiri and Cadoux, Gordon & Lewis 1980; Lewis et al. 1981) raises questions of how sections of upper crust "unload" in response to this uniform contractional strain, and at what scale. The Meckering, Calingiri and Cadoux scarps (scarps 38, 6 and 5 respectively on Figure 3) are 70-100 km apart; too distant for static stress changes to have promoted rupture (e.g. Caskey & Wesnousky 1997). Furthermore, the ruptures were sufficiently temporally separated that dynamic stress changes are unlikely to have promoted rupture. The observations are consistent with the postulate that blocks of upper crust on the scale of 10⁴ kilometres can unload in the space of a decade. In the case of the southwest of Western Australia, this process may be facilitated by a mid- to upper-crustal architecture characterised by fundamental sub-horizontal structural discontinuities (most notably at ~10 km and ~25 km depth) (e.g. Everingham 1965; Drummond & Mohamed 1986; Goleby et al. 1993; Dentith et al. 2000) that are compartmentalised by major moderately-dipping fault systems, forming the "superterranes" of Wilde et al. (1996). With only one example of this phenomenon it is not possible to draw conclusions with any certainty. However, random brittle fracture might operate at larger than the scale of a single fault in some instances within D1.

If one compares a synthetic catalogue of large earthquakes derived from the neotectonic feature inventory presented in Figure 3 with the historic record of seismicity from the South West Seismic Zone it is clear that the last 40 years have been anomalously high in terms of moment release (Leonard & Clark 2006; Leonard & Clark 2010) (Figure 43a). This result is consistent with the low relief landscape in the southwest of Western Australia, and implies that seismicity is migratory, probably on the timescale of a few hundred years.

There is a compelling body of evidence emerging that the temporal clustering behaviour observed from individual fault studies in Australia may be symptomatic of a larger picture of the more or less continuous tectonic activity from late Miocene to recent being punctuated by "pulses" of activity in specific deforming regions (Quigley *et al.* 2010). For example, major deformation episodes are constrained to the interval 6-4 Ma in southwest Victoria (Paine *et al.* 2004) and 2-1 Ma in the Otway Ranges (Sandiford 2003a). A major episode of deformation ceased at 1.0 Ma in the offshore Gippsland Basin while continuing onshore until approximately 250 ka (Holdgate *et al.* 2003). Given the high sensitivity of the stress state in the Australian continent to distant boundary forcings (Coblentz *et al.* 1995; Coblentz *et al.* 1998; Sandiford *et al.* 2004; Hillis *et al.* 2008), it is possible that this behaviour relates to small changes at the plate margins, such as subduction of a sea mount, or processes such as the onset of extension episodes in the Taranaki Basin in New Zealand (e.g. King & Thrasher 1992). An alternative hypothesis is that the boundary conditions have remained essentially static and the locus of deformation has migrated across the Australian continent with time as stress changes in one piece of unloaded crust destabilise an adjacent piece of crust.

MAXIMUM MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE

Probabilistic seismic-hazard analyses (PSHAs) require an estimate of Mmax, the magnitude (M) of the largest earthquake that is thought possible within a specified area, and results are highly sensitive to the choice of Mmax (e.g. Mueller 2010). In seismically active areas such as some plate boundaries, large earthquakes occur frequently enough that Mmax might have been observed directly during historic times. In less active regions like Australia, and most of the Central and Eastern United States and adjacent Canada, large earthquakes are much less frequent and generally Mmax must be estimated indirectly. Indirect-estimation methods are many, their results vary widely, and opinions differ as to which methods are valid (Wheeler 2009b, a). Non-site specific earthquake hazard assessments for Australia, including those for the national seismic hazard maps, have typically taken the approach of assuming an Mmax value based upon adding a constant to the maximum earthquake magnitude observed (Mobs) in a zone of historic seismicity or continent-wide (Gaull & Michael-Leiba 1987; Gaull *et al.* 1990; Gibson 1995; McCue 1999; Brown & Gibson 2004; Hall *et al.* 2007). Values ranging from M3.6 to M8.0 are incorporated into the current national seismic hazard map (Gaull *et al.* 1990), while other studies have adopted values around M7.5 (e.g. Brown & Gibson 2004).

While Brown & Gibson (2004) defined seismicity source zones based upon geological and geophysical characteristics, only one attempt has been made to subdivide the Australian SCR crust on the basis of the expected influence of variation in geology (and by proxy, geophysical signature) on Mmax (Johnston *et al.* 1994). Kanter (1994) initially divided the continent on the basis of geology and geophysics, and the resulting domains were then assigned values of additional variables that "might be related to seismicity" (Kanter 1994, p. 2-8 - 2-16). These were then combined into "superdomains" on the basis of variables that might control Mmax (Cornell 1994). Principle amongst the variables that were thought to influence Mmax was whether the crust comprising the domain had been tectonically "extended" or not, and to a lesser degree the age and type of crust

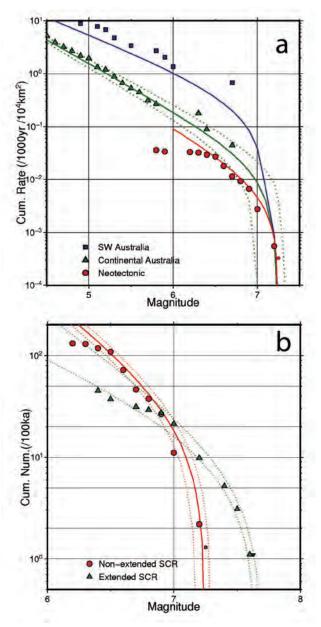


Figure 43 – (a) Comparison of a subset of the neotectonic catalogue (Domain 1; see Figure 3 for location) with the catalogue of historic earthquakes in the Southwest Seismic Zone, and the whole Australian continent. The recurrence rate for Australian continent is the solid green line with the errors being the dotted green lines. The contemporary recurrence rate of the study area is ~10 times the implied neotectonic rate and the rate for the whole Australian continent is ~2 times the neotectonic rate. (b) The Magnitude – Frequency, or recurrence, statistics of the earthquake catalogue derived from a subset of neotectonic scarps from Domain 1 and Domain 6 (see Figure 3 for location). The small symbol represents the largest earthquake in each class (modified after Leonard & Clark 2011).

(Coppersmith 1994; Johnston 1994b). No palaeoseismic studies had been published from Australia at the time of this research, so the Mmax estimates relied exclusively on the global SCR catalogue (Johnston 1994a, b, c). The results according to crustal type, expressed as maximum *observed* magnitude earthquake, were: M8.3 \pm 0.5, extended crust, intracontinental rift; M7.7 \pm 0.2 extended crust, passive margin; M6.8 \pm 0.3, non-extended crust, craton; M6.4 \pm 0.2, non-extended crust, Palaeozoic or Mesozoic fold belt (Johnston 1994b).

Where an active fault has been studied paleoseismically, single-event scarp lengths and single-event displacements can provide two independent estimates of the Mmax for that fault (e.g. Quigley et al. 2006; Somerville et al. 2008; Estrada 2009), with scarp length being considered the more reliable measure (e.g. Wells & Coppersmith 1994; Hemphill-Haley & Weldon 1999). This data is not known for the majority of features in the neotectonics database, and is difficult to estimate with confidence in the absence of detailed field investigation (see Figure 2 for features that have been studied). However, in regions where DEM data is of sufficient resolution that single event ruptures are visible, scaling relations may be used to discriminate between single and multiple event scarps, and a palaeo-earthquake catalogue constructed. A relatively large area of 10 m resolution DEM data in the southwest corner of the Yilgarn Craton section of D1 (Figures 3 & 33) has allowed for mapping of fault scarps in unprecedented detail (Clark 2010). It was estimated that most events above M_w 6.5 that have occurred in the last ~ 100 ka were catalogued (Leonard & Clark 2010). The scaling relations of Leonard (2010) were then used to develop a palaeo-seismicity catalogue comprising 65 events (Figure 43) (Leonard & Clark 2006; Leonard & Clark 2010). The data has typical truncated Guttenberg-Richter recurrence characteristics with a slope (b) of 0.9-1.0 between M_w 6.5 and 6.9, and a rapid roll off in recurrence above M_w 6.9 towards an asymptote of M_w 7.2±0.1, which is considered to be the Mmax. A less well constrained Mmax result of Mw 7.6±0.1 was obtained for the southern Carnarvon Basin (Figure 43b).

The work in the southwest of Western Australia (Leonard & Clark 2006; Leonard & Clark 2010) supports the proposition that the longest fault scarps in the Yilgarn Craton section of D1 are attributable to single earthquake ruptures. Firstly, multiple smaller than full length ruptures would not fit the truncated Guttenberg Richter statistics as well (Figure 43b). Secondly, several smaller than full length rupture events generate significantly less than the observed scarp heights (cf. Leonard 2010), and many smaller than full length rupture events are inconsistent with the palaeoseismic data (e.g. Crone *et al.* 2003; Clark *et al.* 2008a). If it is assumed that the same is true beyond the Yilgarn Craton (with appropriate caveats), then the scarp lengths recorded in the neotectonic catalogue (Appendix Table 1) might be used to estimate Mmax in areas where the catalogue is not sufficiently complete to permit curve fitting.

An interpolated surface of scarp length variation implies variation in Mmax across the continent (Figure 44). The extents of these trends are consistent, within the limitations of the data, with the neotectonic domain boundaries. For example, scarp length is uniformly low in D1 regions (browns). In data-rich parts of D3 (e.g. the Nullarbor) and D6 (e.g. the Carnarvon Basin) scarp length is comparatively higher (greens). Although significant heterogeneity is apparent, there is also an indication that scarp lengths are in general greater in D4 than in D1, while scarp lengths in D5 appear to be comparable to D1. In some instances the relationship between scarp length and height requires segmented rupture (e.g. a very long scarp may not have the height expected of entire length rupture), and in some regions not all relief might be reasonably expected to be neotectonic. Mmax estimation for each domain obtained from scarp length assuming entire scarp-length rupture would therefore be non-conservative. As a conservative measure, we have based Mmax calculations on the 75% percentile scarp length for each domain and by averaging the maximum magnitudes predicted from a range of different published moment-area earthquake scaling relations appropriate for SCR reverse faulting (e.g. Somerville et al. 1999; Somerville 2001; Somerville et al. 2009; Leonard 2010). Results range between M_w 7.0–7.5±0.2 for a generic fault dip of 50°, a seismogenic depth of 15 km, and a fault aspect ratio as prescribed by Leonard (2010) until the seismogenic depth is reached (Table 3). This may be conservative for D1 and D3, where seismogenic depths may be as low as 10 km (Leonard 2008). Reduction of the seismogenic depth to 10 km for these domains results in a ~0.1 magnitude unit lowering in Mmax. At these magnitudes, choice of rupture aspect

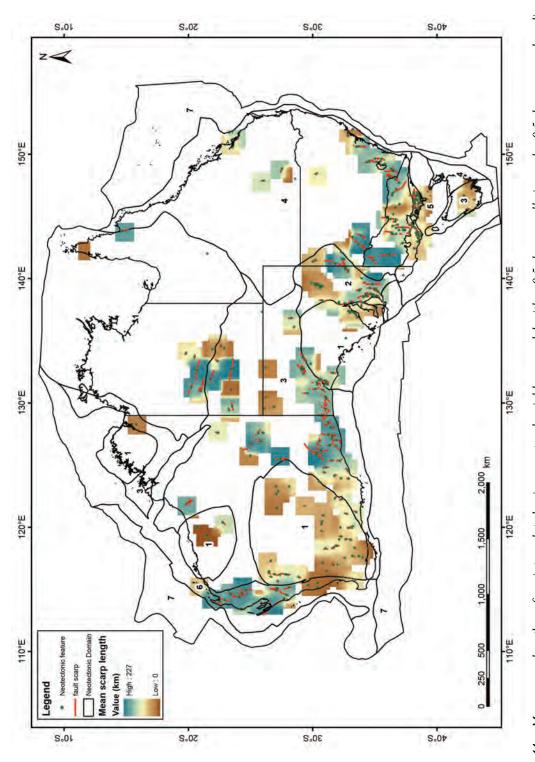


Figure 44 – Mean scarp length surface interpolated using a natural neighbour model with a 0.5 degree cell size and a 0.5 degree search radius. Brown colours indicate relatively short scarp lengths while green colours indicate relatively higher scarp lengths. Note variation in scarp length between domains, with D1 and D5 regions generally low, and other regions comparatively higher.

ratio (cf. Somerville et al. 2009; Leonard 2010) makes less than 0.1 magnitude unit of difference to the results.

The Mmax results appear to be reasonable where validating data is available. For example, the Mmax for D1 (M_w 7.0±0.2) and D5 (M_w 7.5±0.1) are within error of those estimated by Leonard & Clark (2010). Palaeoseismological investigations of the Cadell Fault in D4 indicate the largest events are of magnitude M_w 7.3-7.4 (Clark *et al.* 2007), as compared to the 75th percentile estimate of M_w 7.3±0.1. Somerville et al. (2008) derive Mmax estimates of between M_w 7.3 – 7.5 from palaeoseismic data reported by Quigley et al. (2006) from several D2 faults. The upper boundary of this range is larger than our estimate for D2 (M_w 7.2±0.1), again highlighting the slightly conservative nature of calculations based upon remotely determined scarp length (i.e. 0.1-0.2 magnitude units).

The results indicate that the Australian historic catalogue of seismicity significantly underestimates Mmax in most regions (cf. Gaull *et al.* 1990). With the exceptions of intracontinental rifts (analogous to D5) and passive margin extended crust (analogous to D6), the global SCR catalogue of maximum observed earthquakes also underestimates Mmax, by up to one magnitude unit (cf. Johnston 1994b) (Table 3). Whereas the results for passive margin extended crust are statistically indistinguishable, there is a large discrepancy in Mmax for intracratonic rifts. Given the propensity for folding rather than discrete faulting at the surface within D5, the possibility of larger ruptures than mapped in the neotectonics database cannot be discounted. Based upon analogy with the eastern United States, an Mmax of M_w 7.7±0.2 may be assigned to D7 (Johnston 1994b; Wheeler & Frankel 2000).

Table 3 – M_{max} estimates based upon 75th percentile fault length values (see Figure 37). Moment-area relations with applicability to intraplate settings were used in the calculations (Somerville et al. 1999; Somerville 2001; Somerville et al. 2009; Leonard 2010). Values reported are the average for these models, with uncertainties in M_{max} expressed as ± 1 standard deviation from this average. A 15 km depth of seismogenic crust has been used for each domain, and a fault dip of 50 degrees. Mobs refers to maximum observed earthquakes in the Global SCR catalogue (Johnston 1994). At these magnitudes, choice of rupture aspect ratio (cf. Somerville et al. 2009; Leonard 2010) makes less than 0.1 magnitude unit of difference to the result.

Domain	Description	n	Fault Length (km) [75th percentile value] 50 deg dip; 15 km depth	Mean Mmax (SCR only)	SD	Mobs GlobSCR	SD
1	Archaean & P-Proterozoic	64	35.4	7.0	0.2	6.8	0.3
2	Sprigg Orogeny	40	53.25	7.2	0.1	6.8	0.3
3	Proterozoic Mobile Belt	50	78.15	7.4	0.1	6.8	0.3
4	Phanerozoic terrances	38	72.38	7.3	0.1	6.4	0.2
5	Failed continental rift	21	42	7.1	0.2	8.3	0.5
6	Inverting passive margin	17	103	7.5	0.1	7.7	0.2

IMPLICATIONS FOR STABLE CONTINENTAL REGION (SCR) ANALOGUE STUDIES

A fundamental implication of the domain model presented herein is that intraplate fault characters are not universal in their applicability in analogue studies. Careful choice of subject faults within analogous crust of similar stress field character is required to extrapolate meaningfully to imperfectly characterised areas. Johnston *et al.* (1994) identified continental crust that might be

considered SCR worldwide (for analogue purposes), and proposed a fundamental distinction in the seismic activity levels between extended and non-extended parts of this crust. According to their definition, non-extended crust includes continental shields, platforms and Palaeozoic and Mesozoic fold belts, whereas extended crust includes intracontinental rifts of all ages and passive margins no younger than ~ 25 Ma. While it is not our intent to duplicate that work, the neotectonic inventory of scarps presented herein provides an opportunity to validate and refine the Johnston *et al.* (1994) model at a time-scale commensurate with the recurrence time of maximum magnitude earthquakes in the intraplate setting. The major tenet of the Johnston *et al.* (1994) model, that extended crust is more seismically active than non-extended crust, appears to hold true for the Australian neotectonic record (compare D2, D5 and D6 with D1, D3 and D4) (c.f. Shulte & Mooney 2005). Opportunities exist for the subdivision of both extended and non-extended crust based upon neotectonically-derived characters.

In extended crust domains (e.g. D5, D6), the age of major rifting appears to be important in terms of neotectonic activity level, and in terms of M_{max}. Palaeozoic intracratonic rifts and passive margin components are typically significantly less active than those rifted in the Mesozoic. For example, compare the level of activity in the Palaeozoic Fitzroy Trough and the Mesozoic Gippsland Basin aulocogens, or the Palaeozoic southern and Mesozoic northern Carnarvon passive margin basins (e.g. Figure 33). The distinction becomes more stark when one considers most Precambrian rifts. There is no evidence for neotectonic reactivation of the Mesoproterozoic rift in which sits the McArthur Basin (D1), nor extensional structures related to the Neoproterozoic Amadeus Basin (D3). However, in the latter case, there is evidence consistent with neotectonic reactivation of compressional structures formed at the northern and southern margins of the basin in the Peterman Ranges and Alice Springs orogenies (c.f. Korsch & Lindsay 1989).

D2 is anomalous within this framework. The domain formed as an intracratonic rift that developed into a marginal basin, similar to the Otway Basin, during the Neoproterozoic to Cambrian breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia (Preiss 1987; Drexel et al. 1993; Glen 2005). The interpretation of seismic imaging suggests that the fundamental structural architecture of the domain developed at this time; Cambrian platform and trough sequences overlying Adelaidean basement are normally displaced across major southeast-dipping normal faults that sole into a basal reflector at 12-13 km depth (Flottmann & Cockshell 1996, Figure 4). Reverse displacement during subsequent contractional orogenic events (i.e. the Delamerian, Alice Springs and Sprigg's orogenies) accrued on a spatially restricted subset of these faults corresponding to the topographic axes of Kangaroo Island, and the Mt Lofty and Flinders Ranges. Balanced cross sections derived from geological mapping suggest that a contractional architecture, developed during the Delamerian Orogeny, predominates at the surface, at least along the main topographic axes (Jenkins & Sandiford 1992; Paul et al. 1999). Smaller-scale, or less progressed, analogues of the Flinders and Mt Lofty Ranges can perhaps be seen in the Otway Ranges (Otway Basin) (Figure 25) and the Narracan and Balook Blocks (Gippsland Basin) (Figure 27). The fundamental differences that result in D2 accommodating up to one third of the seismic strain across the entire Australian continent (e.g. Braun et al. 2009) are the orientation of the Adelaidean palaeo-rift almost perpendicular to the contemporary SH_{max} (Figure 1), and perhaps enhanced heat flow resulting in a thermally and mechanically weakened crust (Neumann et al. 2000; Celerier et al. 2005). In these respects D2 may be unique amongst the world's SCR crust.

As we have shown in our analysis of data from domains D1, D3, and D4 there is a significant distinction to be made within the non-extended shield, platform and fold belt division of Johnston *et al.* (1994b). In particular, reactivated Proterozoic fold belts (D3) and Palaeozoic fold belts (D4) appear to be consistently more active than D1 cratonic (shield) crust. There is an indication that

Palaeozoic fold belts are more active than Proterozoic fold belts, at least in terms of the amount of slip that has accrued on the neotectonic faults. This assertion could be tested by summing the moment represented by each scarp in each domain.

Analogues between the Australian domains and SCR crust elsewhere in the world (see Johnston *et al.* 1994) are readily apparent. For example, poly-phase deformation of a compressional nature is a common feature in the post-rift evolution of many passive margins and rifts (D5/D6 analogues) (e.g. Gangopadhyay & Talwani 2003; Cloetingh *et al.* 2008). Archaean cratonic nuclei fringed by Palaeoproterozoic mobile belts (D1 analogues) comprise a large portion of the geology of Peninsula India (Balasubrahmanyan 2006) and North America (Hoffman 1989). Meso- and Neoproterozoic mobile belts involved in the accretion of the supercontinent Rodinia (D3 analogues) are found worldwide (e.g. Kroner & Cordani 2003), as are Phanerozoic accretionary terranes associated with the amalgamation of the supercontinent Gondwana (D4 analogues) (e.g. Collins & Pisarevsky 2005; Cawood & Buchan 2007). Below, we briefly discuss some analogous crust from the North American SCR as a detailed example of the power of the domains approach.

The Archaean and Palaeoproterozoic core of the North American continent (including the Superior, Wyoming, Hearne, Rae, Nain and Slave Provinces and interstitial Proterozoic orogenic belts) (Hoffman 1989) can be considered analogous in terms of crustal properties to D1. This core is fringed on the southern and eastern sides by reactivated Proterozoic mobile belts and orogenic crust analogous to D3 (e.g. the Yavapai-Mazatzal Province and Grenville Belt) (Davis & Bump 2009). Further to the southeast Palaeozoic fold belts similar to those in D4 extend to coastal plain east of the Appalachian Orogenic Belt (Wheeler & Frankel 2000). Mesozoic aulacogens extending through the Palaeozoic and into the Precambrian shield (e.g. the Reelfoot Rift, the Southern Oklahoma aulacogen, the Ottawa Rift, the Saguenay Graben) can be considered similar to D5. The main orientation of the aulacogen with respect to the prevailing stress field might be used to further refine the expectation of analogous crustal response. For instance, the small angle between the major structures of the Reelfoot Rift and the SH_{Max} is similar to the relationship expressed in the Gippsland Basin. The Reelfoot Fault (Van Arsdale *et al.* 1998) and faults such as the Haunted Hill Fault or Morwell Faults (Figure 27) are well suited for analogue studies.

The Mesozoic rifted passive margin of the eastern United States, containing the Charleston source zone (Johnston 1996; Wheeler & Frankel 2000; Talwani & Schaeffer 2001), might be considered analogous with parts of D6 (and perhaps the Sorell basin in D5), or perhaps D7. However, in contrast to our observations, Wheeler (1995) noted that Palaeozoic (Iapetan) passive margin crust to the west of and beneath Appalachian orogenic crust appears to be more active than Mesozoic rifted margin to the east, at least in terms of the historic seismic record.

Conclusions

Herein we have presented a review of knowledge pertaining to the neotectonic deformation of the Australian continent over the last 5-10 Ma (the Neotectonic Era). We propose by extrapolation from the five historic surface rupturing earthquakes, the small body of palaeoseismic data, and in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary (cf. Demoulin 2004), that neotectonic deformation occurring at a scale of several tens of kilometres or less can be related to discrete seismogenic movements on faults. Based upon perceived differences in character of the seismogenic faults across the continent, and guided by variations in the geologic and geophysical makeup of the crust, we propose six onshore Neotectonic Domains (Figure 33). A seventh offshore domain is defined based upon analogy with the eastern United States. A simple statistical analysis of three semi-

quantitative parameters of the neotectonic fault dataset (length, neotectonic slip, and fault density) reveals that, while the faults within each domain are not statistically distinguishable with respect to individual characters, combinations of the central tendencies of the data are sufficiently distinct so as to justify the domains model. For example, faults occurring within Proterozoic (D3) or Palaeozoic mobile (D4, D6) belts tend to be longer than faults elsewhere, and faults in central and western Australia (D1, D3) tend to have accumulated less neotectonic slip than those in eastern Australia (D2, D4, D5). Furthermore, faults in crust that has been rifted (D2, D6, D5) appear to be more closely spaced than those in non-extended crust. These characters relate to the fundamental properties of the crust that is being deformed, which might be seen as a consequence of deformation occurring on pre-existing faults in the intraplate setting (e.g. Hills 1961).

Variations in spatial and temporal patterns in large earthquake occurrence might therefore be inferred between domains. Scarps in D1 appear to be relatively short, randomly arranged, and spaced such that direct interactions between faults are unlikely (see also Table 2). However, the three historic surface ruptures at Meckering, Calingiri and Cadoux suggest that surface rupture occurs in response to unloading of hundred-kilometre scale sections of crust. Strain concentration at some margins of D1 cratons is evident in a more belt-like arrangement of scarps. Within Proterozoic and Palaeozoic mobile belt domains (D3, D4 and to some extent D6) linear arrangement of scarps is apparent, with the potential for direct interaction. Extended domains (D2, D5 and to some extent D6) are characterised by *en echelon* and anastomosing networks of faults where interaction between ruptures is highly likely. Episodic rupture behaviour has been noted in all domains where detailed palaeoseismic data is available (D1, D2, D4, D5) (see also Figure 42). Variations between domains can be seen in the number of ruptures and the interval between ruptures in an active period, and in the inter-active period intervals. This behaviour in individual faults seems to be mimicked at a larger scale in that punctuated episodes of deformation have been noted within deforming regions (e.g. Quigley et al. 2010), and perhaps relates to subtle changes in stress forcings at the plate margins (c.f. Sandiford et al. 2004; Sandiford & Quigley 2009).

Despite the difficulties presented by non-Poissonian rupture behaviour, neotectonic faults in the SCR context have the demonstrated potential to significantly impact probabilistic seismic hazard assessments at recurrence intervals relevant to engineered structures (Somerville *et al.* 2008). The points critical to understanding the hazard posed by SCR faults, and modelling this hazard probabilistically, can be summarised as: 1) is the fault in question about to enter an active period, in the midst of an active period, or in a quiescent period; 2) how many large events might constitute an active period, and how many ruptures has the fault generated so far in its current active period (should it be in one); and 3) what is the "mean" recurrence interval in an active period, and what is the variability around this mean? This "mean" can be incorporated statistically into probabilistic seismic hazard assessments (e.g. Stirling *et al.* 2011).

Our simple statistical analysis of fault length data allows for preliminary estimates of M_{max} to be assigned to each domain (Table 3). These are consistent with palaeoseismic data and with the more rigorous analysis of Leonard & Clark (2010). This is a powerful result applicable to future seismic hazard mapping in Australia, and also meets a need identified by the seismic hazard community for M_{max} estimates for analogous crustal regions elsewhere in the world (Wheeler 2009b). The results suggest that M_{max} values of less than $M_w = 7.0$ for any SCR region worldwide is non-conservative (cf. Gaull *et al.* 1990; Johnston 1994b; Wheeler 2009b).

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Appendix Table 1

The neotectonic data used in the analysis presented in this study is presented in the following table. The data are sourced from the Australian Neotectonics database, accessed March 2010. In some instances, values in the online database have been updated as new evidence comes to light. An up to date listing might be obtained from the authors on request. A dip value of "0" indicates that dip is unknown.

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database#	Feature_Name Ooldea Scarp	Domain 3		Lat Long 131870 -30.876	km 87.0	Avg Strike deg	g eb □	Dip Direction East	Movement	Vert Displ m 20.00	VertDispl Confidence m 20.00 A	Dist to Nearest Feature dec deg 0.19245238502	Shmax Orientation 62	Max Single Event Slip m 2.18	Max Prob M 8.9	Arcs source 3 arc-second Shuttle Fadar Tomography Mission DEM	H DEM profile	Height source
443013 (Orp Scarp	100	131.814	131,814 -30,492	240	42	0	North		25.00	4	0 19245238502	62	88	8.7		DEM profile	
443014	Yarle Scarp	po	131 482	131 462 -30.371	27.0	171	. 0	East	Reverse	15.00	ø	0.18815376932	88	180	8 8	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443015	Watson Scarp	po	131,348	131,348 -30,909		8	0	West	Reverse	8.00	4	0.21729741918	19	2.92	1.7		DEM profile	
443018 (O'Malley Scarp.	m	131,031	131,031 -30.851	67.0	33	0	East	Reverse	8.00	A	0.32281856140	72	2.85	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443017	Cook Scarp	m	130,358	130,358 -31,078	97.0	4	0	East	Reverse	15.00	×	0.12354429381	65	4.82	7.3	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443018	Deskin Scarp	99.	128.988	28.988 -30.728	0.58	28	0	East	Reverse	30.00	A	0.83590894227	7.5	3.69	7.3	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443018	Mundrabilla Scarp	60	127 488	127.488 -31.273	140.0	6	0	West	Reverse	10,00	4	0.32518519208	28	5.14	1.5	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443020	Madura Scarp	60	127,017	127,017 -31,885	81.0	14	0	East	Reverse	10.00	ø	0.35434111108	98	3.86	7.3	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443021	Horseshoe Scarp	60	127.381	127.381 -31.587	100	80	0	East	Reverse	10.00	4	0.21318219748	160	3.25	7.2	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443022	Forrest Scarp	gro.	128.037	128.037 -31.449	1040	9	0	East	Reverse	8.00	A	0 44130389452	18	4.21	7.4	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443023	Insh Well Scarp	po	131,118	131 119 -30.198	108.0	175	0	East	Reverse	15.00	A	0.38355378188	78	4.18	7.4	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443024	Talganna Scarp	97	127.188	127 189 -31.565	47.0	38	0	East	Reverse	12.00	A	0.21318219746	09	2.53	7.0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443025	Knardna Scarp	60	130.481	130.481 -31.061	340	11	0	West	Reverse	8.00	4	0.12354429381	48	2.07	89	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	CEM profile	
443028 (Coompana Scarps	m	128.538	128.538 -31.055	30.0	158	0	West	Reverse	00.5	A	0.63590994227	25	1.92	8 8		DEM profile	
443027	Moonera Scarp	60	128.498	126 496 -31 887	0.58	6,8	0	East	Reverse	12.00	A	0.52017813847	95	3.68	7.3	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443028	Bultanna Scarp	60	128.430	128 430 -31.248	63.0	171	0	East	Reverse	10.00	⋖	0 44130369452	11	2.72	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443028	Nurina Scarp	60	128.598	128.598 -31.352	940	184	0	West	Reverse	20.00	≪1	0.54488941105	88	2.76	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443030	Haig Scarp	eo.	128 202	28 202 -30.854	123.0	10	0	East	Reverse	10.00	4	0.37195709889	18	17.4	7.4	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443031	Gunnadorrah Scarp	00	125.958	125 958 -30 372	19.0	112	0	West	Reverse	16.00	A	0.09138761718	18	3.52	7.2	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
143032 B	Endeavour Scarp	m	125.878	25.879 -30.328	165.0	37	0	West	Reverse	4.00	ø	0.09136761718	95	19.9	7.5	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443033	Loongana Scarp	100	126.916	126.916 -30.516	30.0	38	0	East	Reverse	10.00	Æ	0 72701569458	95	1.82	88	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	CEM profile	
443034	Neales Lineament	en.	138.812	138,812 -28,231	920	174	0	West	Reverse	3.00	×	0 77929882044	22	2.79	7.1	Figure from main reference	main reference	
143035	Naretha Scarp	60	124.817	124.817 -31.026	97.0	9	0	East	Reverse	40.00	¥	0.40495425118	18	2.85	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443038 0	Caiguna Scarp	00.	125.384	125,384 -32,174	999	18	0	West	Reverse	17.00	A	0.88548452750	28	2.82	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443037	Culver Scarp	60	124.841	124.841 -32.774	43.0	38	0	East	Reverse	20.00	4	0.72934709220	25	2.39	7.0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
143038	Rawlinna Scarp	50	125.373	125,373 -31,508	93.0	178	0	West	Reverse	10.00	«t	0.88548452750	08	2.72	1.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443038	Kitchener Scarp	West .	124 182	124 182 -31 781	380	162	0	East	Reverse	15.00	4	0.56338267368	89	2.03	8 8	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443040	Wborlba Scarp	(0)	123.948	123,949 -32,274	18.0	157	0	East	Reverse	20.00	4	0.58338267388	8	1.42	8.8	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	OEM profile	
443041	Cundeelee Scam	09	124.426	124.426 -30.921	38.0	12	0	East	Reverse	8.00	4	0.40495425118	83	22.22	8.9	3 anc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443042	Edjudina Scarp	-	121.718	121,719 -29,327	23.0	158	0	West	Reverse	4.00	4	1.69518572186	87	184	8.7	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443043	Gerard Scarp	-	122.692	122.692 -27.096	16.0	-	0	East	Reverse	10.00	a	0.26760318522	28	1.32	9.9	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443044	Lake Wells Scarp	-	122,934	122.834 -27.211	8.0	169	0	East	Reverse	8.00	A	0.26760318522	50	0.89	6.2	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	CEM profile	
443045	Lake Wells Scarp 2	+	128.321	128.921 -27.081	22.0	138	0	East	Reverse	18.00	U	0.42730077216	06	1.60	6.7	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	CEM profile	
443046 B	Boolarra Fault Bass Fault	10 ID	146 300	38.376	28.8	25 23	0.0	Northwest	Narmal	30.00	ш ш	0.06073679769	2 4	3.29	0 E	Warragul 1 250000 geological map sheet 3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	SRTM DEM profile DEM profile	
443048 6 443050 6 443051 7 443053 6 443054 4	Budgeree Fault Currajung Monocine Darrman Monocine Ostiondale Monocine Gelfondale Monocine Hauntech Hills Fault Heath Hills Fault		146.342 38.420 146.665 38.45 146.744 38.526 146.334 38.86 146.323 38.209 145.680 38.251	38 420 38 341 38 455 38 526 38 209 38 209	2222224 222222 222222 222222	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	000000	North South Southeast South Northwest	Reverse	100.00 30.00 50.00 120.00 80.00 40.00	ৰৰৰাতাওৰৰ	0.20758116571 0.20758116571 0.16873139589 0.16873139589 0.170905223157 0.30101201608	2828285	2.03 1.84 1.34 2.00 2.00 2.76	884886	Vernagu i 120000 geological map sheet Vernagu i 120000 geological map sheet Vernagu i 120000 geological map sheet VoCAAP 20000 geological map sheet VCAAP 2000 mW 2000 3 sc-sexon d Sulfa 7000	DEM profile DEM profile DEM profile CEM profile CEM profile CEM profile	
443056	Marvell Manadine	w	146.374	146.374 -38.284	30.0	9		East	Reverse	70.00	4	0.02966641984	19	2.28	10	VICMAP 20th DTM 2000	DEM profile	
443057	Waratah Fault	un:	146.056	146.056 38.770	37.0	40	0	Northwest	Eextral	20.00	O	0.19132883981	65	2.56	7.1	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	main reference	
443068	Snake Ridge Monodine	un	146.851	148.851 -38.111	37.0	88		Narth		45.00	A	0.07770338876	33	2.56	7.1	VICMAP 20m ETM 2000	main reference	
443059	Tap Tap Fault	in.	146.502	146 502 38 800	13.5	98	0	North		40.00	4	0.02797778828	0)	1.48	8.7	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443060	Toora Fault	un	146.518	146.518 -38.623	14.0	83	0	South		40.00	4	0.02797778828	23	1.48	6.7	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443062	Kanari Scarp	-	133.387	133.387 -29.463		82	0	South	Reverse	40.00	4	0.37326875874	34	2.69	2.0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443063 (Cooper Pedy Scarp	m	133.651	133.651 -29.199		19	0	North	Reverse	30.00	U	0.37326875874	32	3.37	7.2	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	
443065	Kalga Hills Scarp	107	131,900	131,900 -21 790		120	0			3.00	U	1.55287320643	D	4.45	7.4	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Missien DEM	max estimate from DEM profile	profile
443066	Munro Scarps	m	121.890	121,890 -19,820	70.0	322				10.00	U	2.10183413887		3.25	13	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM	DEM profile	

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Arcs source 3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	Land Menitor 10 m DEM 3 arc-second Shutle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM DI	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Missian DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arcsecond Shuttle RadarTomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM DI	Google earth imagery	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM m	3 arc-second Shuttle-Radar Tomography Mission DEM m	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM m	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomagraphy Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 00	3 arc-second Shuttle Fadar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM G	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM D	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM O	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM O	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM Of	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM O	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 0	3 arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Mission DEM 0
Max Prob M 7.1 3 arcs	88 Land M 74 3 arc-s	7.4 Barcis	7.3 3 arc-s	7.1 3 arc-s	7.3 3 arc-s	8.9 3 arcs	7.3 Sarcs	7.1 Sarcs	7.2 8 arcs	7.5. 3 arcs	7.8 3 arc-s	7.2 3 arc-s	8.7 Google	7.5 Baros	7.1 3 arcs	70 3arcs	7.3 3 arc.s	7.8 3arc-s	7.3 3 arcs	78 Barcis	4.0 3 arc-s	7.2 3 arc-s	7.2 3 arc-si	7.3 3 arc-s	7.3 3 arc.s	7.2 3 arc-s	7.0 3 anc-s	B B 3 anc-s	7.3 3 arc-s	8.7 3arcs	8.9 3 arc.s	62 3arcs	84 3arcs	BB Sarces	83 Sarce	7.1 3 and 9	7.0 3 arc-s	70 3ans	88 3ancs	6.8 3arcs	7.0 3 arcs	8.7 3arcs	8.5 3 anc-s		8.9 3 arc-s
Max Single Ma Event Slip m 2.78	1.49	3.87	3.50	2.52	8.48	2.03	8.57	2.80	2,88	4.82	5,00	2,96	1.46	4.91	2.88	2,13	3.40	5.43	3.43	5.40	7.40	2,96	3,00	3.25	3.57	3.03	2.22	1.74	3.43	28	2.07	68.0	1.12	1,82	0.00	2.58	2.17	235	1 63	1.37	2.58	2	1.17		2.08
Shmax Ma Orientation Eve	37	32	88	38	58	90	88	104	35		1.9	1/2	98	0	0		0	8			志	8	28	0	0		.0		á	0		0					0		0						
Dist to Nearest St Feature dec deg Orle 2.80860.203843	0.32244008564	0.13226154482	0.13226154482	0.27437781597	0.14338643629	0.14338843829	0.48710004088	0.40752845442	0.04304548481	0.14338721144	0.27388278484	1.01781519828	0.15251074293	0.41680198892	0.27388278484	1.54892858237	0.97707297014	0.43421517572	0.69924321906	0.31910737859	0.14146725808	0.14146725808	0.21443434125	0,27129247214	0.27129247214	0.28636547479	0.23116050186	0.19218005982	0.15412742298	0.10086529589	0.09166980401	0.06897324965	0.06897324965	0.09086344425	0.07700753300	0.07734189564	0.07608045914	0.09713244676	0.09713244878	0.19035940256	0.21650875881	0.10051388405	0.10051386405	0.46681558993	0.32069836751
	00	0	0	0 0	0 0	0	0		0	0	A 0	В	A 0		0 8	В	B 0	0	0	В	A 0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	a	0	0	O	U	0			٥	0	0		O		0	
ertDispl Co	4.00	9,00	10.00	4,00	10.00	8,00	250,00	200.00	10.00	25.00	80.00	9,00	30.00	300.00	80.00	100,00	40.00	40.00	8.00	8,00	100,001	12,00	20.00	00'09	50.00	70.00	90.00	80.00	80.00	10.00	20 00	25.00	36.00	20.00	11.00	15.00	90.09	40.00	15.00	30.00	30.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	20.00
Movement VertDispi Confidence m 18.00 C							Reverse	Reverse	Reverse	Reverse	ral reverse	Reverse	Reverse			Normal																													
Dip M Direction							East	East	West	West	Northwest Dextral reverse	-	East																																
d Se	0.0	0	0	0	0.	0	0	0	0	0.0	D Nor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-			=		0	B	0	œ	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	.0	0	
Length Avg Strike km deg 42.0 8	B 11	992	0.9	992	199	45	337	ietz	88	0	98	184	22	17	37	85	336	358	00	348	340	407	175	348	348	00	898	40	358	366	19	347	=	18	-	362	88	15	10	88	42	334	343	346	90
km 42.0	72.55	73.0	62.0	36.0	80.0	25.0	84.0	80	45.0	103.0	108.0	47.2	14.0	108.0	40.0	27,0	0.69	124.0	0.09	128.3	78.0	47.0	48.1	66.0	250	49.0	29.0	19.0	0.08	23.0	34.0	8.0	12.0	R	89	37.0	28.0	32.0	17.0	17.0	48.0	23.0	13.0	23.0	8
Lat Long 47,880 -28,030	117,587 -34 011	140,782 -32,814	140.912 -32.608	140.645 -32.852	141.583 -32.348	141,561 -32,488	138.119 -33.078	138.007 -32.802	114,980 -27,080	115.092 -27.136	113,874 -22,222	113,421 -24,287	138.802 -34.629	114,142 -22,813	114,047 -22,507	115.387 -20.788	113.047 -25.804	114,980 -24,803	114.858 -23.387	114,418 -24,085	138.855 -34,251	138.575 -34,388	138,512 -34,090	149,442 -34,532	149,491 -34 282	149.844 -35.021	149,250 -35,320	149,457 -35,481	149.159 -35.651	137.352 -33.095	137,382 -33,190	137,308 -33,248	137,285 -33,318	137 235 -33,381	139.552 -30.170	139.588 -30.236	139.454 30.389	139.348 -30.694	139.329 -30.600	137.070 -33.478	136.882 -33.581	137.628 -35.049	137,703 -34,982	137,524 -34,295	137.785 -33.908
Domain ID	- 4	.01		r.i	5	77	6	~	100	60	60	100		00	œ	00	60	60	.00	100	ci.	ru.	C4	4	4	4	4	4	4	-	6	-	-	E	N	2	2	2	2	-	-	+	-	Đ	E
Feature_Name Forest Vale Scarp	Tambellup Scarp Shoalhaven Scarp	Olary Creek Scarp 1	Olary Creek Scarp 2	Olary Creek Scarp 3	Fine Creek Scarp 1	Mne Creek Scarp 2	Crystal Brook Scarp.	Nectar Brook Scarp	Toolonga Scarp 2	Toolonga Scarp 3	Cape Range Antidine	Cape Cuvier Anticline	Concordia Fault	Giralia Range Fault &	Rough Range Fault and Anticline	Barrow I stand Anticline	Dirk Hartog Anticline	Kennedy Range Fault	Round Hill Scarp	Wandagee Fault	Alma Fault	Redbanks Fault	Oven Fault	Crookwell Scarp	Binda Scarp	Mulwaree Scarp	Queanbeyan Fault	Narongo Fault	Mumumbidgee Fault	Nanowie Scarp	Randell Scarp	Poynton Scarp	Muminnie Scarp	Moonable Scarp	Beverley Camp Lineament	Poontana Scarp	Wooltana Scarp	Wertaloona Scarp	Wertaloona West Scarps	Charleston Scap	Cowell Scarp	Yorketown Scarp	Coobowie Scarp	Balgovan Scarp	Wallarop Scarp
443067	458419	458488	458500	458501	456502	458510	458797	458788	456940	456941	457301	457305	457307	457588	457587	457588	457589	457574	457575	457578	457580	457581	457582	457583	457584	457585	457586	497587	457588	457588	457590	457591	457592	457593	457585	457588	457597	457600	457801	457842	457843	457847	457848	457849	457850

Main Reference	Steve Hill (University of Adelaute) pers commi	CLARK D. 2008. Field investigation of linear scarps south of Perth, Western Australia: relationships to faulting, Geoscience. Australia, Earthquake Hazard Projett unpublished report, 30p.	CLARK D. 2008. Field investigation of linear scaps south of Perth. Western Australia, relationships to faulting. Geoscience Australia, Earthouake Harrard Project upon distributioner and 30 a
Height source			
	ston DEM DEM profile	DEM profile	DEM profile
database Feature, Name Domain Lat Long Length Avg Strike Dip Dip Movement VertDisp Confidence Distr Nemest Simax Max Single Max Prob Arcs source Din Lat Long Length Avg Strike Dip Dip Movement VertDisp Confidence Distr Nemest Siman Max Prob Din Length Avg Strike Dip Dip Movement VertDisp Confidence Distr Nemest Siman Max Prob	arc-second Shuttle Radar Tomography Miss	Land Meniter 10 m DEW	Land Monitor 1D m DEM
dax Prob	3.8	7.0 1.9	7.1
Max Single A	90'9	231	2.80
Shmax	0	0	0
Dist to Nearest	0.32069838761	0.00000000000	0.00000000000
Confidence	Q I	υ	u
VertDispl	40.00	1.00	20.00
Aovement			
Dip			
ike Dip	20	0	
th Avg St	18	27	
ong Leng	38.089 -34.059 1110	1418 31.1	15.903 -32.943 38.0
Ē	138.089 -34	115.786 -30	115,903 -37
Domain	150	w	100
Feature_Name	ummack Range (Pine sint) Fault	463865 Boyanup Scarp	463666 Wagerup Scarp
latabase#	457851 H	463665 B	463666 V
0			