

# Changes in hot spring temperature and hydrogeology of the Alpine Fault hanging wall, New Zealand, induced by distal South Island earthquakes

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## ABSTRACT

Thermal springs in the Southern Alps, New Zealand, originate through penetration of fluids into a thermal anomaly generated by rapid uplift and exhumation on the Alpine Fault. Copland hot spring (43.629S, 169.946E) is one of the most vigorously flowing, hottest of the springs, discharging strongly effervescent CO<sub>2</sub>-rich 56–58°C water at  $6 \pm 1 \text{ l sec}^{-1}$ . Shaking from the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound (Fiordland) 2009 and Mw7.1 Darfield (Canterbury) 2010 earthquakes, 350 and 180 km from the spring, respectively, resulted in a characteristic approximately 1°C delayed cooling over 5 days. A decrease in conductivity and increase in pH were measured following the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake. Earthquake-induced decreases in Cl, Li, B, Na, K, Sr and Ba concentrations and an increase in SO<sub>4</sub> concentration reflect higher proportions of shallow-circulating meteoric fluid mixing in the subsurface. Shaking at amplitudes of approximately 0.5% g Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) and/or 0.05–0.10 MPa dynamic stress influences Copland hot spring temperature, which did not respond during the Mw6.3 Christchurch 2011 aftershock or other minor earthquakes. Such thresholds should be exceeded every 1–10 years in the central Southern Alps. The characteristic cooling response at low shaking intensities (MM III–IV) and seismic energy densities (approximately  $10^{-1} \text{ J m}^{-3}$ ) from intermediate-field distances was independent of variations in spectral frequency, without the need for post-seismic recovery. Observed temperature and fluid chemistry responses are inferred to reflect subtle changes in the fracture permeability of schist mountains adjacent to the spring. Permanent  $10^{-7}$ – $10^{-6}$  strains recorded by cGPS reflect opening or generation of fractures, allowing greater quantities of relatively cool near-surface groundwater to mix with upwelling hot water. Active deformation, tectonic and topographic stress in the Alpine Fault hanging wall, where orographic rainfall, uplift and erosion are extreme, make the Southern Alps hydrothermal system particularly susceptible to earthquake-induced transient permeability.

Key words: Copland hot spring, earthquake, fluid flow, orogenic geothermal systems, permeability change, Welcome Flat

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## INTRODUCTION

Earthquake-induced fluid redistribution is of relevance in earth science as it provides an important mechanism for mineral deposit formation (Sibson 2001), and fluids have some control on the strength of faults and the crust (Townend & Zoback 2000; Faulkner *et al.* 2010; Saffer

2014). Fluids affect ground strength and shaking behaviour at near-field distances from earthquake epicentres, and transient stresses of seismic waves have potential to interact with fluids and dynamically trigger seismicity at far-field distances (Hill *et al.* 1993; Brodsky *et al.* 2000; Husen *et al.* 2004; Taira *et al.* 2009). Post-seismic fluid flow can have implications for groundwater supply and quality,

contaminant transport, underground repository safety and hydrocarbon production (Wang *et al.* 2013; Wells *et al.* 2013). Earthquake-induced hydrological responses have potential to provide information on crustal permeability and tectonic processes at spatial and temporal scales that are otherwise difficult to study, helping to highlight that crustal permeability is not a fixed quantity but an ever evolving, dynamic parameter (Wang & Manga 2010a; Manga *et al.* 2012).

Given that earthquakes can change groundwater flow, changes in temperature and composition of groundwater are to be expected, but to date there are few comprehensive observations at appropriate epicentral distances and length scales to constrain the various operational mechanisms (e.g. Wang *et al.* 2004a). At far-field (many fault lengths) distances from an epicentre, static stresses due to the earthquake are small, so sustained changes in groundwater are thought to be the result of processes that can convert (the larger) transient, dynamic strains into medium- to long-term changes in fluid connectivity and flow. Both laboratory and field observations indicate that stresses too small to produce new cracks or pathways are able to change permeability, but laboratory experiments appear to require larger strain amplitudes than observed in natural systems (Manga *et al.* 2012).

In solid rocks, sustained far-field changes have been mostly attributed to transient changes in permeability caused by local changes in the aperture of fractures and/or mobilisation of small particles into the fluid phase (e.g. Brodsky *et al.* 2003; Montgomery & Manga 2003; Shi *et al.* 2014). Many questions still remain as to the exact pore- and fracture-scale mechanisms that create permeability changes, which can be difficult to decipher in natural systems because of their complexity and the inaccessibility of the subsurface (Manga *et al.* 2012). However, depending on geological context, different mechanisms of hydrological response to earthquakes should have different characteristic time scales of response and recovery or occur over different length scales (Montgomery & Manga 2003) or shaking thresholds (Wang & Manga 2010a,b). By developing empirical catalogues of earthquake-induced changes, it may be possible to elucidate the processes and driving mechanisms by testing hypotheses against scale-appropriate observations (e.g. Rojstaczer *et al.* 1995; Roeloffs 1996, 1998; Wang *et al.* 2004b, 2013; Elkhoury *et al.* 2006, 2011; Liu & Manga 2009; Manga & Rowland 2009). Here, we contribute observations from the Copland hot spring in the Southern Alps of New Zealand. This system is a prime candidate for investigations of geothermal responses to seismic activity because this tectonically active region on a plate boundary is host to a dense network of seismometers and continuous and semi-continuous Global Positioning System (cGPS) stations (see Supporting Information for details of the GeoNet seismometer network and

cGPS stations), and the South Island has recently experienced a series of moderate magnitude earthquakes.

Rapid uplift and strong erosion in the Southern Alps of New Zealand has perturbed the thermal structure of the upper crust, leading to geothermal activity and a series of thermal springs in the Pacific plate hanging wall of the Alpine Fault (e.g. Allis *et al.* 1979; Koons 1987; Allis & Shi 1995; Beavan *et al.* 2010a; Sutherland *et al.* 2012). Elevated topography locally drives circulation and cooling from the surface, whereas rapid uplift and conduction generate buoyancy driven circulation from depth (Koons & Craw 1991; Koons *et al.* 1998; Menzies *et al.* 2014). In this contribution, we document transient changes in the hydrothermal circulation in the shallow crust, observed through characteristic changes in temperature and chemistry of the spring fluids that were induced by seismic shaking from large distal earthquakes. We present observations from continuous monitoring of Copland hot spring temperatures and local rainfall from 2009 to 2011, with less frequent fluid conductivity measurements and chemical analyses spanning periods before and after earthquakes, together with observations from seismometers and cGPS stations. Drawing on surface site observations as a guide, we discuss constraints on the geometry of subsurface flow, nature of observed responses and potential mechanisms for change.

Although we have yet to obtain absolute values of permeability change, our contribution quantifies the low thresholds of shaking needed to produce observable changes in the Southern Alps hydrothermal flow regime. A corollary is that transience in permeability and changes to the flow regime must be relatively frequent, with occurrence and recovery over time scales of years to decades. We also document earthquake-related motion of nearby GPS stations, showing that observed dynamic earthquake-induced perturbations of the flow regime are associated with small permanent strains at amplitudes of  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$  that are near the lower limit of strains previously known to cause hydrological effects (Manga *et al.* 2012). We propose that the setting of Copland spring in the mountainous central Southern Alps, on the actively deforming hanging wall of the Alpine Fault plate boundary, is likely to be particularly sensitive to earthquake-induced permeability change and thermal spring response.

## SETTING AND CONTEXT

### Tectonics

The Southern Alps are a topographic expression of oblique  $39.7 \pm 0.7 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$  collision between the Pacific and Australian plates (DeMets *et al.* 2010) (Fig. 1). The largest late Quaternary fault displacement rates in the region

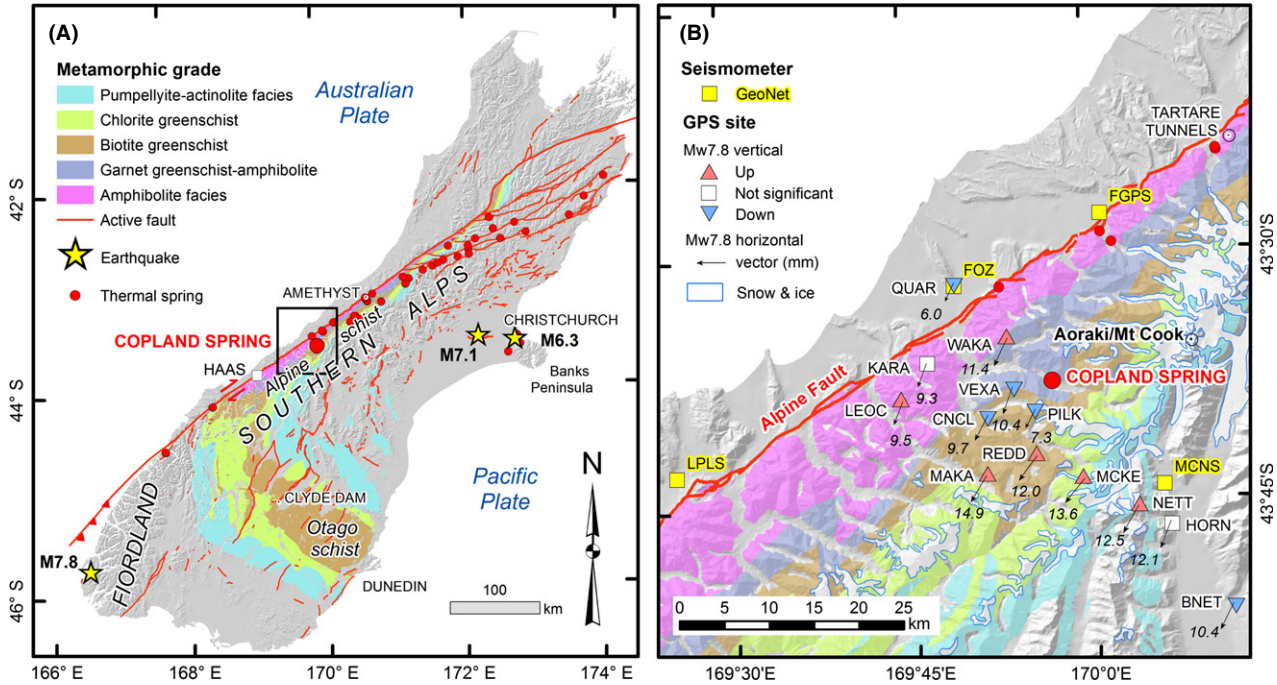


Fig. 1. (A) Map of South Island of New Zealand showing the location of the Copland and other thermal springs, the Alpine Fault and other active faults, and the epicentres of major South Island earthquakes during 2009–2011. The area of the Haast Schist Group, including some sub-greenschist facies semi-schist, is coloured by metamorphic grade. (B) Detailed map of the central Southern Alps, showing the location of Copland hot spring relative to nearby seismometers (yellow squares) and cGPS stations (triangles and squares). Scaled vectors show horizontal displacement of cGPS stations during the Mw7.8 earthquake, and the triangles are coloured according to the direction of vertical motion (red = upward, blue = downward).

occur on the central Alpine Fault ( $27 \pm 5 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$  strike-slip and approximately  $10 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$  dip-slip rates – Norris & Cooper 2001; Sutherland *et al.* 2006) along the western side of the alps. Although it has not produced any major earthquakes or measureable creep during New Zealand's < 200 year written history, paleoseismologic evidence suggests this mature transpressive fault ruptures regularly in great (magnitude M~8) earthquakes at recurrence intervals of  $329 \pm 68$  years (Sutherland *et al.* 2007; Berryman *et al.* 2012). The most recent rupture was approximately 1717 AD, so the fault appears to be late in the cycle of stress accumulation that will lead to a future large earthquake (Wells *et al.* 1999; Howarth *et al.* 2012). Regional GPS campaigns have revealed that the highest geodetic shear strain rates in New Zealand ( $> 0.3 \text{ ppm a}^{-1}$ ) are presently occurring within the Southern Alps, above the down-dip extension of the locked uppermost portion of the Alpine Fault (Beavan *et al.* 2007; Wallace *et al.* 2007). An array of continuous and semi-continuous GPS stations across the central Southern Alps records approximately  $4 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$  vertical (uplift) rates 10–20 km south-east of the fault (Beavan *et al.* 2010a). The extent to which this strain is elastic or permanent, and where or when this stored energy may be released, is poorly known. Present-day microseismicity occurs at depths < 15 km within a seemingly uniform crustal stress field in the Alpine Fault hanging wall (Wallace *et al.* 2007;

Boese *et al.* 2012, 2013; Cox *et al.* 2012a; Townend *et al.* 2012).

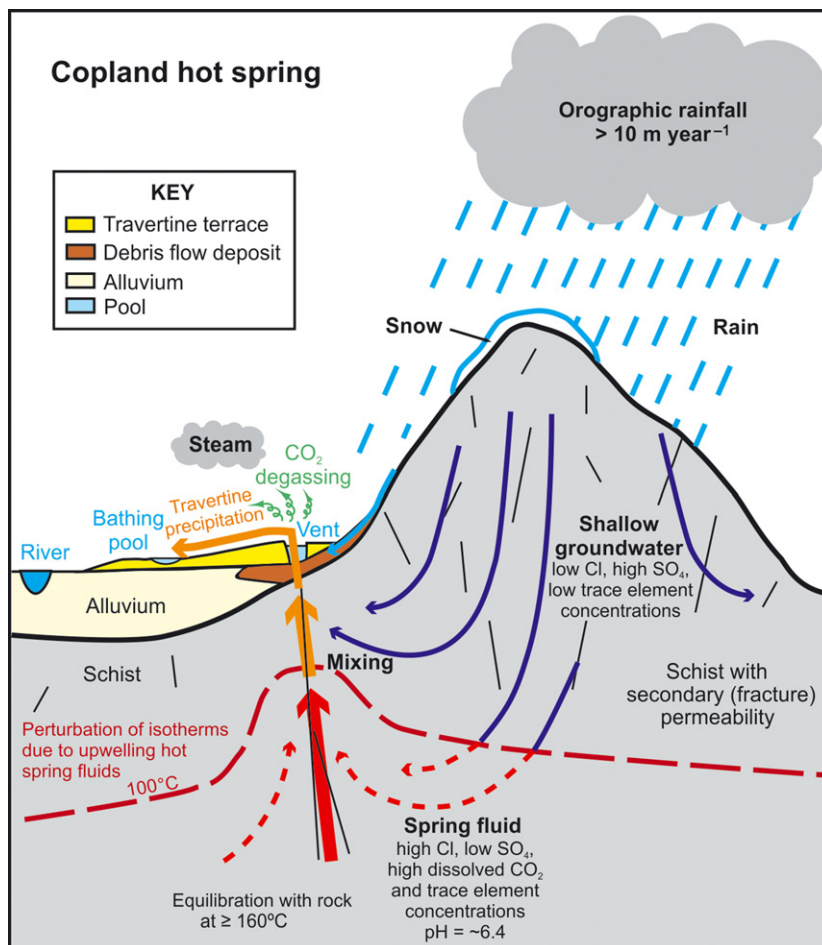
Pacific plate rocks are uplifted in the Alpine Fault hanging wall into the path of the prevailing westerly winds from the Tasman Sea and Southern Ocean, to produce a strongly asymmetric pattern of orographic weather and erosion (Hicks *et al.* 1996), with heavy ( $> 10 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) rainfall on the windward western side of the mountains and near arid conditions ( $< 1 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) in the east (Tait *et al.* 2006; Cox & Sutherland 2007). A near-continuous mid-upper crustal geological section has been exposed by differential uplift and erosion resulting in amphibolite facies Alpine schist adjacent to the Alpine Fault, grading through greenschist facies schist and pumpellyite-actinolite facies semi-schist at the main drainage divide (Main Divide), to prehnite-pumpellyite facies greywacke sandstone in the south-east (Fig. 1; Cox *et al.* 1997; Cox & Barrell 2007). The asymmetric rainfall, rapid uplift, erosion and exhumation result in high heat flow, thermal weakening and strong focussing of deformation at or near the Alpine Fault (Koons 1989; Koons *et al.* 2003; Herman *et al.* 2009; Sutherland *et al.* 2012). Topographic-driven infiltration of meteoric waters through fractures intersects the shallow thermal anomaly, producing hydrothermal circulation in the shallow crust that emerges as thermal springs at the surface (Allis *et al.* 1979; Koons & Craw 1991; Koons *et al.* 1998; Reyes *et al.* 2010).

### Copland hot spring

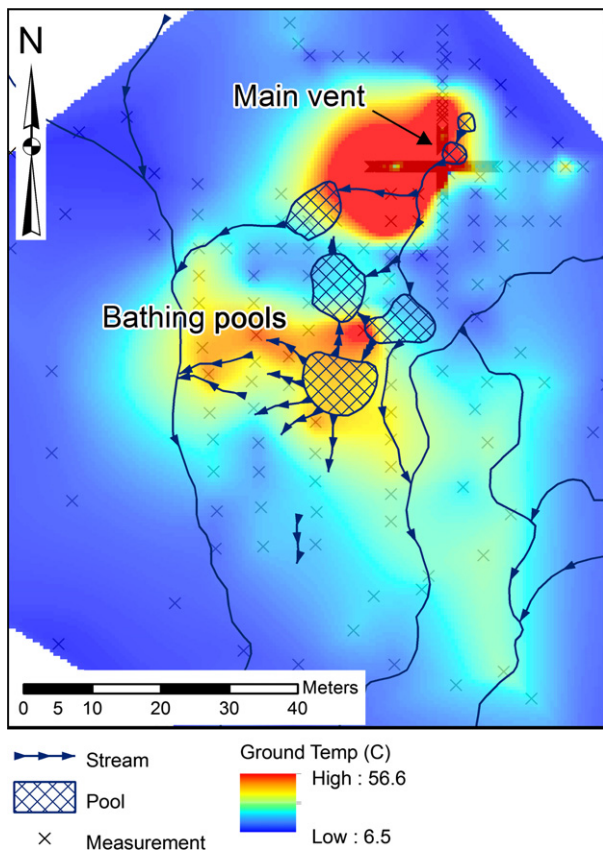
Copland hot spring (43.629S, 169.946E, 440 m asl) is located 12 km east of the Alpine Fault and 12 km west of the Main Divide, where Copland valley is deeply incised between > 2000 m peaks and glaciated ridges of the central Southern Alps (Fig. 1A,B). The spring is of interest as it has the strongest discharge of both water and gas and is the second hottest and the most chemically evolved of about forty thermal springs along the rapidly uplifting part of the central Alpine Fault (Fig. 1A). Copland hot spring is unusual in the region in that it effervesces abundant CO<sub>2</sub> and has precipitated a large travertine deposit. The spring is within the Westland National Park, and bathing pools downstream from the main upwelling vent are a popular destination for hikers.

The spring emanates through a thin cover of debris fan deposits and alluvial gravels (Fig. 2), estimated to be < 50 m thick at the site, overlying fractured garnet-zone schist (Alpine schist) that forms the dominant rock type along the western Southern Alps (Cox & Barrell 2007).

Strongly effervescent CO<sub>2</sub>-rich water emerges at approximately 56–58°C into a 1.5 × 1 × 1 m vent pool, then discharges at 6 ± 1 l sec<sup>-1</sup> through a small restricted channel (cross-sectional area 300 cm<sup>2</sup> with average flow velocity 0.2 m sec<sup>-1</sup>) and out across a terrace of travertine. We estimate over 90% of the fluid emerges through the source pool, but seeps of CO<sub>2</sub> gas and hot water emanate from other small vents nearby. The temperature of the ground approximately 0.7 m below surface, mostly within travertine or underlying debris-flow deposits or alluvium, was mapped using a calibrated thermistor (± 0.1°C). There is a strong thermal anomaly in the ground with an area > 50 m<sup>2</sup> associated with the upwelling vent pool, and a secondary, less intense anomaly near the bathing pools associated with downwards seepage of hot water into the travertine terrace (Fig. 3). Continuous monitoring of fluid discharge at Copland spring has yet to be attempted, but is complicated by the two-phase flow, our inability to constrain flow at subsidiary vents, heat of the fluid and the limited site engineering that is permitted due to site conservation values.



**Fig. 2.** Cartoon of the hydrothermal circulation that results in Copland hot spring. Rapid uplift and strong erosion of the Southern Alps in the hanging wall of the Alpine Fault has perturbed the thermal structure of the upper crust, leading to geothermal activity and a number of thermal springs. Elevated topography locally drives circulation and cooling from the surface, whereas rapid uplift and conduction drive buoyancy driven circulation from depth. Horizontal and vertical dimensions are not drawn to scale.



**Fig. 3.** Thermal map of ground temperature at depths of approximately 0.7 m, as measured on 2 September 2009. X symbols show the location of 298 datapoints, collected by hammering a steel rod into the ground, quickly removing it and inserting a fibre glass probe with a thermistor on its tip, then reading the temperature once the probe had thermally equilibrated. The principal anomaly is adjacent to the main upwelling vent pool, where temperatures reach 56.6°C. Hot water flows out from the vent across the ground, into bathing pools, where we interpret a secondary thermal anomaly from seepage down into the travertine. Over 8000 m<sup>2</sup> is anomalous above 10°C mean annual air temperature, but much of which seems to reflect surface flow or shallow subsurface flow immediately beneath the travertine.

### Hydrogeology

There is a paucity of information available on the in situ permeability of rocks in the Southern Alps, and none of it formally published. Although work has been completed recently in the Alpine Fault and its damage zone (Sutherland *et al.* 2012), to our knowledge, only one investigation has quantified hydraulic properties of fractured Alpine schist in the hanging wall further from the fault. Hydraulic testing was recently completed for a hydroelectric power project near Amethyst Stream, Wanganui River, 1.5 km from the Alpine Fault (see Table S1, Fig. 1A) where garnet-zone schists contain spaced fractures and shears and are likely to be directly comparable with Alpine schist at Copland valley. These rocks were regionally metamorphosed to either greenschist or amphibolite facies during

the Jurassic-Cretaceous and uplifted during the Neogene (Little *et al.* 2005). They form part of the Haast Schist Group, which is also exposed in the Otago region (Fig. 1A), but where quartzofeldspathic-dominated schist was regionally metamorphosed in the Jurassic and uplifted in Early Cretaceous (Mortimer 1993).

On the basis of regional observations in both Otago and the Southern Alps (Table S1), Alpine schist forming the mountains around Copland valley is expected to have > 10 m scale (intrinsic) fracture permeability of between 10<sup>-15</sup> and 10<sup>-12</sup> m<sup>2</sup>. Corresponding groundwater hydraulic conductivities are estimated to be approximately 10<sup>-8</sup> to 10<sup>-5</sup> m sec<sup>-1</sup>, assuming saturated conditions and standard values of viscosity and specific gravity (based on water at 10°C and 1 atm). An effective fracture porosity of between 10<sup>-3</sup> and 10<sup>-1</sup> (i.e. 0.1–10%) would cover the range expected from fracture densities encountered in Amethyst drill cores and textbook values (e.g. Freeze & Cherry 1979; Domenco & Swartz 1990; Supporting Information). Fractured Alpine schist permeability is therefore similar to damage-zone mylonite (approximately 10<sup>-14</sup> m<sup>2</sup>), but higher than cataclaste (approximately 10<sup>-16</sup> to 10<sup>-17</sup> m<sup>2</sup>) and the principal slip zone (approximately 10<sup>-19</sup> m<sup>2</sup>) of the Alpine Fault (Sutherland *et al.* 2012).

### Recent earthquakes

Three major earthquakes occurred in the southern South Island during 2009–2013 (Fig. 1A). A moment magnitude (M<sub>w</sub>) 7.8 earthquake occurred in Dusky Sound Fiordland at 21:22 (NZST) on 15 July 2009, centred 350 km southwest of the Copland hot spring. Low-angle thrusting on the Australian-Pacific plate interface produced shaking intensities not felt in South Island for at least 80 years (Fry *et al.* 2010). Reverse slip of 5–6 m at the hypocentre produced shifts at cGPS monitoring stations, with over 300 mm of coseismic horizontal motion and approximately 50 mm of post-seismic motion at the station nearest the hypocentre, and discernable coseismic offsets throughout the lower South Island (Beavan *et al.* 2010a,b; see below). The Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake was notable for the relatively small amount of high-frequency (>5 Hz) shaking given the size of the event (Fry *et al.* 2010).

On 4 September 2010 at 04:36 (NZST), a Mw7.1 earthquake occurred near Darfield, Canterbury, centred 180 km east of the Copland hot spring. The event ruptured the 30-km-long Greendale Fault (Quigley *et al.* 2010), previously concealed beneath the Canterbury alluvial outwash plains, within a network of faults that accommodates distributed deformation east of the Alpine Fault (Cox *et al.* 2012a; Litchfield *et al.* 2013). Right-lateral strike-slip displacement reached 5.3 m at the surface, averaging 2.5 ± 0.1 m (Quigley *et al.* 2012), initiating a prolonged

aftershock sequence that lasted throughout 2011 and 2012. The largest and most damaging aftershock was the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake at 12:51 (NZST) on 22 February 2011, which occurred on an oblique thrust fault beside the volcanic rocks of Banks Peninsula (Beavan *et al.* 2011; Kaiser *et al.* 2012) at a distance of 220 km from Copland hot spring.

The Canterbury earthquakes radiated anomalously high levels of seismic energy relative to their magnitudes. The Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake had an energy magnitude ( $M_e$ ) of 7.4, with peak vertical ground accelerations reaching 1.3 g near the epicentre, whereas the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock had an  $M_e$  of 6.7 and produced vertical accelerations of up to 2.2 g (Cousins & McVerry 2010; Gledhill *et al.* 2011; Reyners 2011). Attenuation with distance was stronger for the Mw6.3 than in the Mw7.1, as expected for the approximately one magnitude step difference between the two events, with correspondingly greater attenuation of accelerations than shaking velocities or displacements (Kaiser *et al.* 2012). However, the close proximity of the Mw6.3 earthquake to the city of Christchurch, the shallow source and exceptionally strong vertical ground motions resulted in high levels of damage and human casualties (e.g. Bradley & Cubrinovski 2011; Fry *et al.* 2010; Orense *et al.* 2011). In stark contrast, the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake of 2009 occurred in a sparsely populated region in the remote area of Fiordland, radiated a similar amount of seismic energy ( $M_e$  7.3) in a predominantly offshore (south-westward) direction and produced relatively little damage and no casualties (Reyners 2009). Hydrological responses to these South Island earthquakes were observed in monitoring wells at near-, intermediate- and far-field distances (Cox *et al.* 2010, 2012b; Gulley *et al.* 2013).

The seismicity rate in the central Southern Alps increased significantly after the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes, but not after the energetic Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock (Boese *et al.* 2014). Delayed-triggered swarms of low-magnitude earthquakes occurred beneath the Main Divide 20–25 km north-east of Copland valley, but were not detected in the immediate vicinity of the Copland hot spring. The largest numbers of events occur in swarms delayed several hours to tens of hours after arrival of the remotely sourced seismic waves. Seismicity triggered by the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake continued for approximately 5 days in the central Southern Alps and at least 2 days after the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake.

## COPLAND HOT SPRING TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS

Rainfall, air and pool temperatures at Copland hot spring were continually monitored between March 2009 and July

2011 using a Hobo U12 temperature logger (relative precision  $\pm 0.04^\circ\text{C}$ , accuracy  $\pm 0.4^\circ\text{C}$ ) recording at 15-min intervals, and a Hobo RG3-M tipping bucket rain gauge (0.2 mm per tip; air temperature precision  $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ , accuracy  $\pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ ) situated 80 m south of the spring. The U12 logger was submerged at a depth of 1 m in the vent pool formed where fluid emanates at the surface. This pool is quite distinct from pools where the downstream flow is dammed for bathing.

Water temperatures fluctuated about background values of  $57\text{--}58^\circ\text{C}$ , with up to  $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$  diurnal variation, but fell dramatically during episodes of heavy rainfall. Abrupt temperature drops occurred as soon as it started raining with more gradual recovery to background values 3–5 h after the rain stopped (Fig. 4). Spring water cooled to as low as  $36.6^\circ\text{C}$  when 535 mm of rain fell in a single storm between 25 and 28 April 2009. There is little surface runoff directly into the vent pool, so cooling is primarily a result of subsurface flow, as reflected by the quick recovery.

A distinct and very different cooling occurred following the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake on 15 July 2009. After a delay of  $180 \pm 15$  min, there was first a slight  $0.20 \pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$  rise in spring temperature to  $58^\circ\text{C}$ , followed by a slow  $0.90 \pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$  cooling over a 5-day period to a new lower background value approximately  $57^\circ\text{C}$  (Fig. 5A). Fifteen months later on 4 September 2010, the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake centred 180 km east of the spring produced a very similar response. After a delay of  $140 \pm 15$  min, there was a  $1.1 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$  cooling (Fig. 5B) that accentuated the long-term temperature depression, but was then overprinted by rainfall-related cooling between 5 and 7 September.

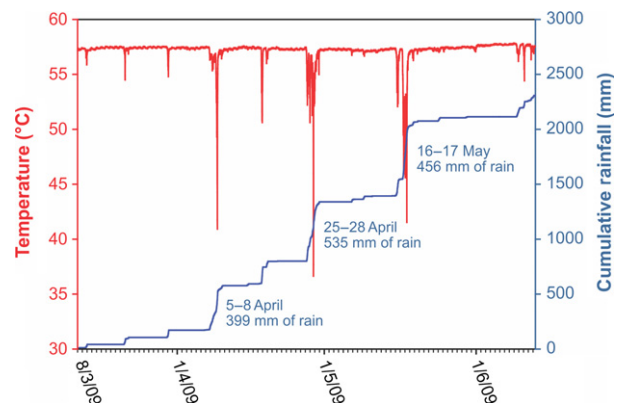
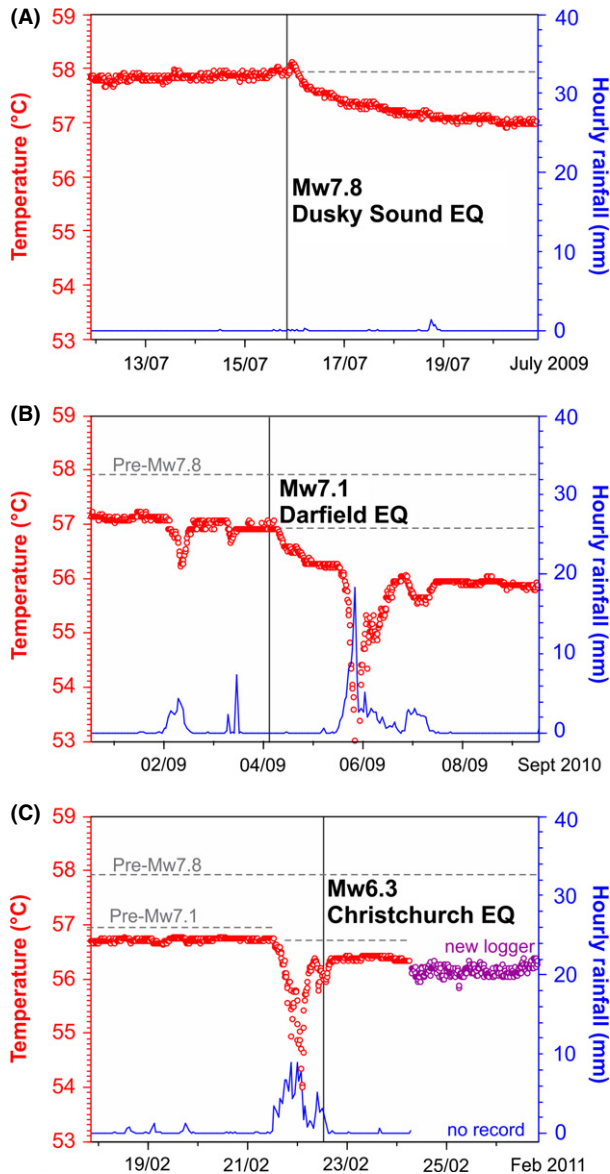


Fig. 4. Graph of cumulative rainfall (mm, blue line) and pool water temperature ( $^\circ\text{C}$ , red line) during the period 8 March–13 June 2009. A strong correlation exists between the main rainfall events, marked by large steps, and major water temperature depression. A subtle diurnal  $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$  fluctuation occurs when temperatures returned to background values of  $57\text{--}58^\circ\text{C}$  between the rainfall events.



**Fig. 5.** Graphs of Copland spring temperatures (red) and hourly rainfall (blue) at the time of recent earthquakes: (A) Mw7.8 Dusky Sound (15 July 2009), (B) Mw7.1 Darfield (4 September 2010) and (C) Mw6.3 Christchurch (22 February 2011). The temperature logger is submerged 1 m below the pool surface and is not directly affected by surface waters. A new U12 logger was deployed in late February 2011 (purple symbols), when equipment problems also resulted in missing rainfall data.

The background pool temperature remained depressed at approximately 56°C from September 2010 until February 2011 when the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock occurred 220 km to the east. The pool temperature was already lower at the time of the earthquake due to a rainstorm that had started the previous day. Consequently, any shaking-induced signal is masked by the cooling caused by 104 mm of rain (Fig. 5C). The pool had been at a background temperature at 56.74°C on 21 February prior to

the rain, but post-rainfall recovery was to a new background at 56.38°C by 16:45 on 22 February, only 4 h after the earthquake and 2 h after it stopped raining. The earthquake may have induced a small  $0.36 \pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$  temperature depression, accomplished over a period  $< 4$  h, but masked by the effects of rainfall. If real, this was comparatively short and steplike compared with the cooling induced by the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes. Due to concerns over battery life, a new temperature logger was deployed on 24 February 2010 that performed with lower precision and measured slightly cooler temperatures that reflect instrument performance/calibration issues (Fig. 5C – see annotation). Consequently, when combined with rainfall masking, we are not confident that there was any lasting temperature departure caused by the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake, but certainly the response was different if any occurred at all. By 24 March 2011, the spring temperature had recovered to background temperatures of approximately 57°C, equivalent to those prior to the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake. In October 2013, the background spring temperature was still at approximately 57.1°C, yet to recover to the state it was prior to the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake in July 2009.

Earthquake-related cooling responses have been time-shifted with regard to earthquake origin time, so they can be compared (Fig. 6). These responses are quite distinct from the sharp drops and recoveries resulting from rainfall (Fig. 4). The Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake cooling in September 2010 started from approximately 1°C lower background temperature (at approximately 57°C), but followed a trajectory very similar to the cooling caused by the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake in July 2009. The main differences were as follows: (i) the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake showed a slight temperature increase before cooling, which was not observed following the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake; (ii) the response to the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake was overprinted with rainfall-related cooling to as low as 45.6°C. We consider these to represent minor departures from what was otherwise a characteristic temperature response that predominantly reflects cooling caused by earthquake-induced changes in the flow regime, with temperature decay that is related to thermal capacitance of the hydrothermal system (see Discussion).

## FLUID CHEMISTRY OF COPLAND HOT SPRING

Copland hot spring waters have the highest concentration of dissolved solids of thermal springs along the central Alpine Fault and the second highest temperature (Reyes *et al.* 2010; Menzies 2012). The waters are slightly acidic (pH = 6.1–6.6), have high alkalinity (approximately  $17\,000\ \mu\text{eq l}^{-1}$ ) and degas  $\text{CO}_2$  as they upwell. They have elevated concentrations of Li, B, Na, Mg, Si, Cl, K, Mn,

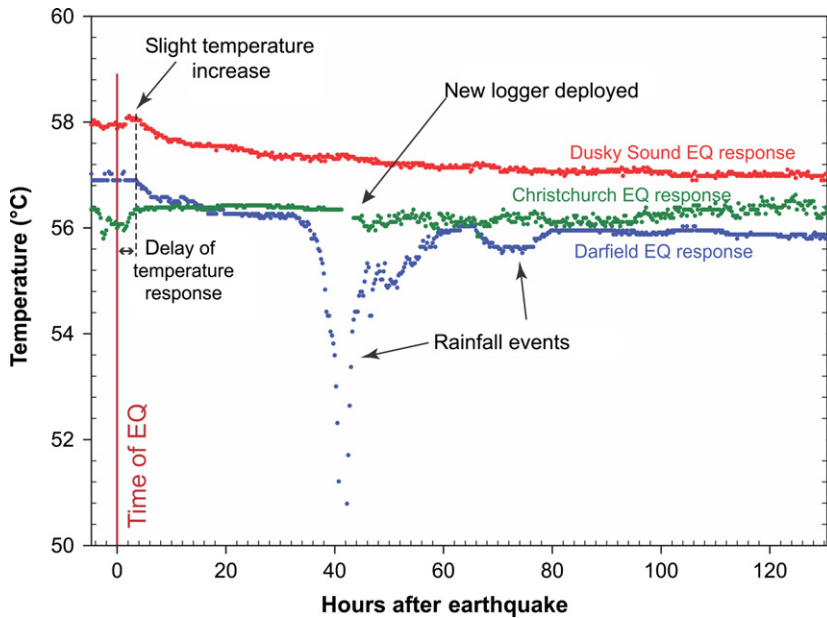


Fig. 6. Copland spring temperatures, time-shifted relative to the source time of each earthquake, so the nature of earthquake-related responses can be more closely compared.

Rb, Sr, Ca and Ba, and low concentrations of  $\text{SO}_4$  (Table 1) relative to other springs in the central Southern Alps. Stable oxygen and hydrogen isotopic signatures plot on or near the global meteoric water line (Barnes *et al.* 1978; Reyes *et al.* 2010; Menzies 2012), indicating fluids are principally derived from deep infiltration of precipitation (rainfall or snow melt) into the schist mountains. Application of the silica (no steam loss) geothermometer of Truesdell (1976) to fluid chemical analyses returned equilibration temperatures of 153–164°C (Table 1). This suggests circulation to depths of 2–3 km if the local geothermal gradient is similar to the 62.6°C km<sup>-1</sup> gradient measured at the Alpine Fault (Sutherland *et al.* 2012), although thermal modelling suggests that geothermal gradients should be higher in the hanging wall away from the Alpine Fault due to the cooling influence of relatively static footwall rocks (Koons 1987). Clearly, the deep fluids have cooled during upwelling, but low sulphate concentrations indicate that this is principally by conduction rather than dilution by cool shallow meteoric fluids. Conductive cooling may result in silica precipitation that would result in an underestimation of the maximum equilibration temperature using the silica geothermometer. Unfortunately, major cation concentrations (Na, K, Mg, Ca) indicate that the Copland hot spring fluids are immature waters far from equilibrium with the host rock Alpine schists (following Giggenbach 1988) precluding the use of a range of geothermometers (e.g. Giggenbach *et al.* 1993; Menzies 2012). However, this lack of equilibration probably excludes deep fluid–rock interaction at temperatures much > 200°C (see also Reyes *et al.* 2010).

Having observed cooling of Copland hot spring in response to rainfall and the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound (July

2009) earthquake, a series of temperature, conductivity and pH readings were taken at the vent pool throughout 2010 and 2011. The spring fluids showed a subtle shift to lower conductivity and higher pH after the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake (Fig. 7), changing from a mean ( $\pm$  standard error) conductivity of 2311  $\pm$  56 to 2074  $\pm$  27  $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$  and pH 6.43  $\pm$  0.01 to 6.53  $\pm$  0.02. Together with the records of cooling, these chemical observations are interpreted to reflect a change in the dilution of deep upwelling thermal waters (more acidic, more conductive) by near-surface (more basic, less conductive) groundwater.

Samples of Copland spring fluid (Table 1) were collected for geochemical analysis on 8 March 2009, 3 October 2010, 8 November 2010 and 23 February 2011, spanning the period of the recent earthquakes, and can be compared with published analyses of fluids collected about 1975 and 27 November 2005 (Barnes *et al.* 1978; Reyes *et al.* 2010 respectively). Concentrations of some cations and anions have changed systematically over time (Fig. 8, Table 1). Cl concentrations were highest (164, 167 and 154  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ ) in samples collected before the recent earthquakes, compared with 147  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  in a sample from 2 months after the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake and 137  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  in a sample collected 1 day after the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake. Concentrations of Li, B, Na, K, Sr and Ba were also higher in samples collected before the earthquakes, than those during and after the earthquakes.  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations are variable and lower in 1978 and 2005 analyses (Barnes *et al.* 1978; Reyes *et al.* 2010) than those of this study. Such systematic differences between samples corroborate the notion of earthquake-induced changes in fluid chemistry observed in pH and conductivity over time. Other elements (F, Si, Mg, Ca, Rb, Fe, Mn, Br and Cs) show no



**Table 1** Chemical analyses of Copland spring, rainwater, nearby side streams in Copland valley and groundwater in > 300-m-long tunnels cut through schist at Tartare stream, Franz Josef (Fig. 1B). Data from Barnes et al. (1978), Reyes et al. (2010) and Menzies (2012). Details of field sampling methods and analytical procedures are outlined in the Supporting Information.

Date	Units	Copland warm spring										Rain				Rivers		Groundwater tartare tunnels		
		Barnes 1978	Reyes 27/11/05	H56 8/03/09	H529 3/10/10	HS28 8/11/10	WF2 23/02/11	Karangarua 18/02/10	Shields Ck 8/03/09	Rough Ck 8/03/09	Average 2009/2010	Range 2009/2011	Shields Ck 8/03/09	Shields Ck 8/03/09	Shields Ck 8/03/09	Average 2009/2010	Range 2009/2011			
Temp. surface	°C	56.0	56.0	56.9	55.5	56.0	56.1	nd	7.3	11.4	10.3	10.0–10.7								
Temp. U12 logger	°C	nd	nd	nd	56.3	57.3	56.4	na	na	na	na	na								
T of Si eq.*	°C	162	157	164	159	160	153	na	na	na	na	na								
pH		6.1	6.4	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	8.1	7.5	7.3	6.8–7.9								
Conductivity	$\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$	nd	nd	2100	2360	2100	2040	4	56	233	485	123–666								
Total Alkalinity	$\mu\text{eq l}^{-1}$	18770	nd	nd	nd	nd	16850	19	nd	233	485	0.03–0.1								
F	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	1.0	0.74	1.28	nd	1.23	1.29	bd	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.02–0.1								
Cl	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	164	167	154	nd	147	137	bd	1.03	1.68	2.24	1.88–2.41								
Br	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	nd	0.24	0.37	nd	0.35	0.33	bd	bd	0.004	0.01	0.008–0.012								
SO <sub>4</sub>	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	bd	0.63	0.91	nd	0.81	1.07	bd	4.88	3.48	6.00	3.11–8.50								
Li	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	2300	2200	2110	2040	2030	1940	bd	1.32	0.93	2.37	0.57–4.00								
B	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	5950	6400	6250	6050	5980	5590	bd	2.29	1.12	2.29	2.01–2.86								
Na	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	392	381	396	365	369	349	0.01	0.78	1.53	2.43	1.67–2.83								
Mg	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	4.50	4.70	4.72	4.52	4.64	4.29	0.01	0.26	0.44	1.28	0.29–1.91								
Al	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	nd	nd	0.62	8.23	7.04	2.75	2.04	6.88	13.6	4.33	1.02–13.1								
Si	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	71.4	65.8	59.5	67.6	68.3	66.1	0.004	1.33	2.46	3.63	2.04–4.82								
K	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	28.0	29.0	27.8	25.5	25.9	24.6	0.005	1.63	1.52	2.18	0.80–3.10								
Ca	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$	87.0	85.0	66.2	87.3	89.5	82.6	0.17	4.73	4.09	14.7	2.14–23.0								
Mn	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	nd	nd	245	252	219	241	0.06	0.24	0.25	0.16	0.06–0.33								
Fe	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	nd	nd	1.62	15.1	25.2	94.9	0.97	2.86	3.74	1.46	0.52–3.46								
Rb	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	170	160	228	221	170	214	0.02	3.45	3.75	0.58	0.58–0.34								
Sr	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	1900	1900	1840	1780	1810	1680	0.27	13.7	12.2	35.3	8.95–52.5								
Cs	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	167	bd	175	189	157	183	bd	0.19	0.06	bd	bd								
Ba	$\text{ng g}^{-1}$	nd	190	175	171	176	161	0.02	8.80	9.49	9.16	3.79–12.6								

nd, not determined; na, not applicable; bd, below detection. \*T of Si eq. = equilibration temp using the Truesdell (1976) silica geothermometer.

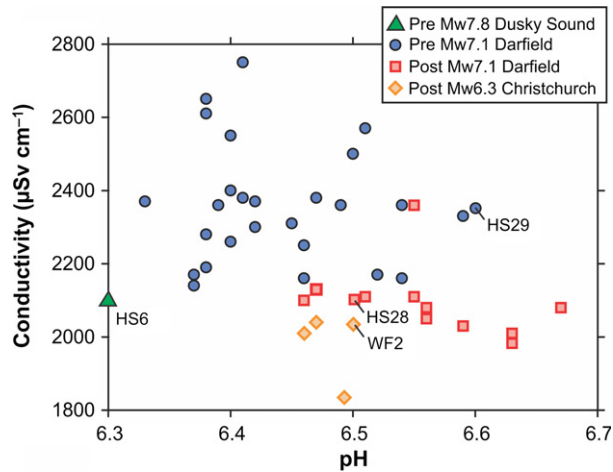


Fig. 7. Graph of specific conductivity versus pH at Copland hot spring, showing earthquake-induced changes. Measurements are classified according to time relative to earthquakes, showing a clear lowering of specific conductivity (i.e. total dissolved solids) and pH increase from pre- (blue circles; 31 December 2009–22 August 2010) to post- (red squares; September–October 2010) Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake.

regular changes with time and earthquake events. This may be because the temporal variability in concentration of these elements (e.g. due to seasonal variation, subsurface precipitation of calcite or rainfall) is higher than any earthquake-induced changes or because any changes were insufficient to exceed analytical uncertainties for these elements.

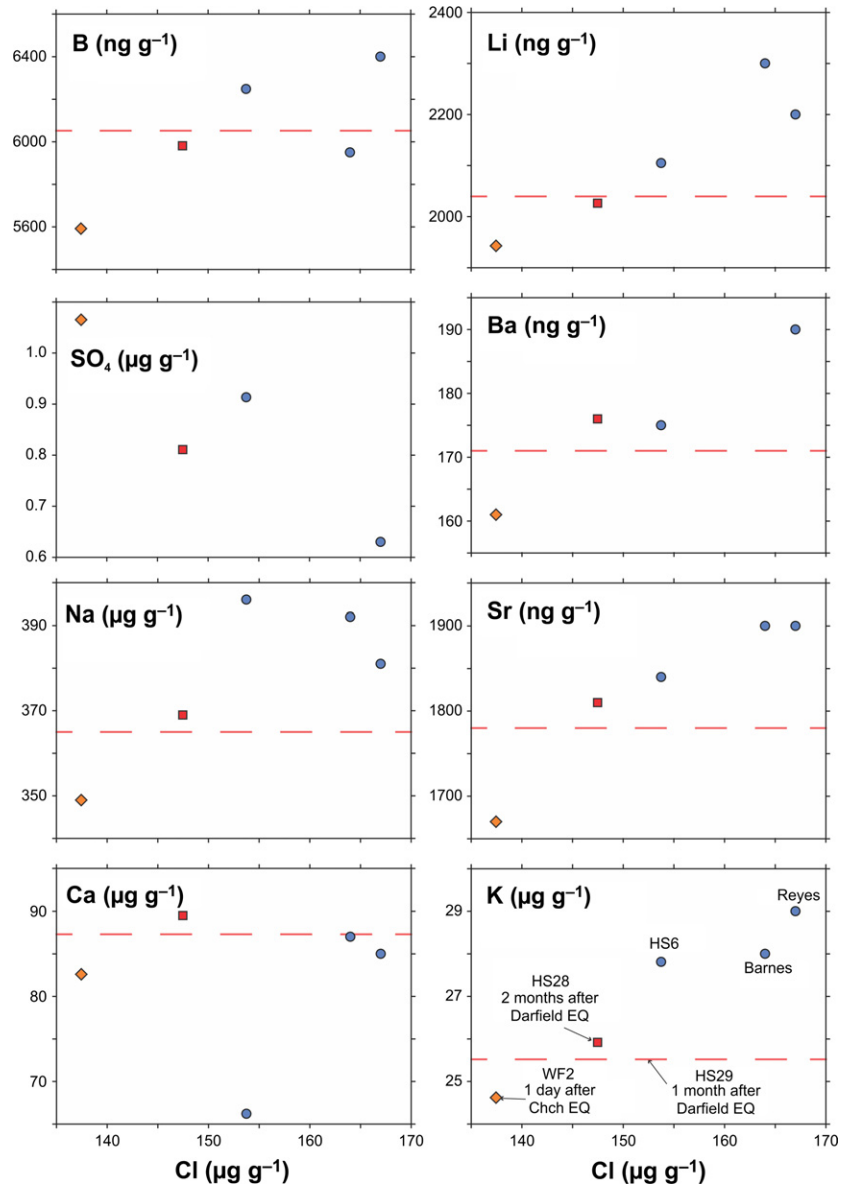
Concentrations of most elements except  $\text{SO}_4$  are considerably lower in surface waters such as rain, river waters and shallow groundwater in schist (Table 1), commensurate with conductivities that are two orders of magnitude lower than spring fluid. Surface waters are more oxygenated so carry sulphur as  $\text{SO}_4$ , whereas deeper hydrothermal fluids tend to be sulphide-bearing (Barnes *et al.* 1978). Mixing of surficial water and shallow groundwater into deep hydrothermal fluid should therefore decrease the concentration of anions and cations, as well as temperature, increasing only  $\text{SO}_4$  and pH. Assuming the concentration of  $\text{SO}_4$  is near-zero in the deep hydrothermal fluid, and shallow fluid has a  $6.0 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$   $\text{SO}_4$  equivalent to the average groundwater in Tartare Tunnels (Table 1), mass balance between the pre-earthquake sample HS6 ( $\text{SO}_4 = 0.91 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ ) and average Tartare groundwater suggests about 15% of Copland hot spring prior to the earthquakes was derived from shallow fluid. Assuming the spring did not experience major flow rate changes as a result of seismic events, corroborated by the lack of any significant change reported by Department of Conservation staff and visitors present at the time, mass balance between post-earthquake sample WF2 ( $\text{SO}_4 = 1.07 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ ) and Tartare Tunnel groundwater using  $\text{SO}_4$  as a tracer suggests the earthquake increased the proportion of shallow end member fluid to 18%. Alternate mixing models are also

feasible, but yield mixing ratios around 5:1 and similarly small changes in response to earthquakes. In the absence of information on absolute changes in discharge, none are able to distinguish whether there was an increase in volume of shallow fluid mixing into the hot spring fluid or decrease in deep hydrothermal fluid.

## DYNAMIC SHAKING

National seismometers closest to, and surrounding, Copland hot spring are FOZ (22.2 km north-west), MCNS (16.6 km southeast), FGPS (19.4 km north-east) and LPLS (43.3 km south-west) (GeoNet 2014; see also Supporting Information). Peak ground accelerations (PGA) and peak velocities (PGV) are listed in Table 2, reported also in the text as absolute acceleration (% g) values. Shaking from the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake (PGA = 0.5–2.8% g) was more intense than the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound event (PGA = 0.4–2.3% g), which in turn was more intense than the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock (PGA = 0.1–0.5% g). Peak ground accelerations mostly occurred at periods of 0.4–1.0 sec. Simplified interpolation between seismometers, using the nearest-neighbours function (Sibson 1981) in ArcGIS, suggests peak ground accelerations in the vicinity of the Copland hot spring are very unlikely to have exceeded approximately 2% g during these earthquakes, corresponding to New Zealand Modified Mercalli (MM) intensities (Dowrick 1996) of III–IV (weak to light). The seismic energy densities at Copland hot spring, estimated from the empirical relation of Wang & Manga (2010b), are from  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-1} \text{ J m}^{-3}$  (Mw7.8 =  $0.24 \text{ J m}^{-3}$ , Mw7.1 =  $0.18 \text{ J m}^{-3}$ , Mw6.3 =  $0.01 \text{ J m}^{-3}$ ; Table 2). The static stress changes at Copland hot spring (Table 2) are estimated to have been approximately 0.48 kPa for both the Mw7.8 and Mw7.1 earthquakes, but only 0.03 kPa for the Mw6.3, based on estimations from the published seismic moment ( $M_0$ ) values of  $2.72 \times 10^{20} \text{ N m}$  (Fry *et al.* 2010),  $3.46 \times 10^{19} \text{ N m}$  (Gledhill *et al.* 2011) and  $3.72 \times 10^{18} \text{ N m}$  (Kaiser *et al.* 2012), using the equation  $\text{Stress} = M_0 / (4\pi D^3)$  where D is the epicentral distance (Brodsky *et al.* 2003).

Absolute acceleration response spectra differ markedly between the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes (Fig. 9A,B). There was high power at 1- to 2.5-sec periods during the Mw7.1, which appears to have been a characteristic of spectra recorded elsewhere in South Island (Cousins & McVerry 2010), and many seismometers recorded relatively small amounts of low period (< 0.2 sec) shaking during the Mw7.8 (Fry *et al.* 2010) including FOZ, FGPS and MCNS. Peak ground accelerations were higher during the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake (see also Table 2), particularly well exemplified by the FOZ N horizontal (north-south) channel (Fig. 9C). However, none of the accelerations were particularly strong in



**Fig. 8.** Evolution of Copland hot spring fluid chemistry. Concentration of trace elements in Copland spring waters plotted against chloride concentration for samples taken before the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake (blue circles), after Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake (red square and red dashed line) and after Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake (orange diamond). Pre-Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake data taken from (Barnes *et al.* 1978; Reyes *et al.* 2010) and HS6 in March 2009 – see Table 1.

the seismometers surrounding Copland hot spring, which is not surprising given the epicentral distances involved. In these recent earthquakes, FOZ recorded lower spectral accelerations than MCNS, FGPS and LPLS, which we interpret to be largely a site response effect (Fig. 9A,B). FOZ is situated on a solid bedrock site (subsoil category Type B – Rock, as defined in NZS1170.5 by Standards New Zealand 2004), whereas the other seismometers are situated on thick sequences of compact glacial gravels (Type D – deep or soft soils). It is therefore likely that of any of the GeoNet seismometers, the national network station FOZ, situated 15 km from Copland hot spring, best represents the shaking of bedrock and mountains surrounding Copland valley, through which the thermal spring-waters flow (see also Supporting Information).

The 2007–2012 record of shaking at FOZ, plotted as the maximum PGA measured from earthquakes > Mw4 (Fig. 9D), shows that the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound, Mw7.1 Darfield and Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquakes produced the highest levels of shaking observed over the period when the spring temperatures were being monitored (March 2009–July 2011). However, only the Mw7.8 and Mw7.1 earthquakes were able to produce a clear response in Copland hot spring that followed characteristic cooling and did so despite very clear differences in source location, directivity, energy magnitude and spectral behaviour. The ground motion of the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes exceeded PGA values of 45 mm sec<sup>-2</sup> and PGV values of 10 mm sec<sup>-1</sup> in both horizontal and vertical directions for nearly all seismographs surrounding

**Table 2** Records of PGA and PGV (hor = horizontal, vert = vertical) for seismometers FOZ, MCNS, FGPS and LPLS during the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound, Mw7.1 Darfield and Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake. The column COP\_SPR contains a simplistic nearest-neighbours interpolation (*italics*) that accounts for distance to the surrounding seismometers, but not site conditions nor any differences in station instrument types.

CODE	UNIT	FOZ	MCNS	FGPS	LPLS	COP_SPR
Instrument		Episensor	Etna	Etna	Etna	Interpolation
Site latitude S	Degrees	−43.5338	−43.7381	−43.4649	−43.7163	−43.6295
Site longitude E	Degrees	169.8154	170.0971	170.0197	169.4230	169.9464
Site elevation	m	54	701	181	23	440
Distance to Copland	km	22.2	16.6	19.4	43.3	0.0
Site geology and strength	ASNZS 1170.5	B, Rock	D, Deep or soft Soil	D, Deep or soft Soil	D, Deep or soft Soil	B, Rock
Site geology and strength	NZS4203	A, Rock or very stiff soil	C, Flexible or deep soil	C, Flexible or deep soil	C, Flexible or deep soil	A, Rock or very stiff soil
Mw7.8 Dusky Sound, 15/07/09 09:22:29						
Epicentral distance	km	358	359	375	321	356
PGA_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	47.9	38.0	58.0	83.5	46.0
PGA_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	52.7	100.2	118.8	229.5	91.0
PGV_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	11.8	8.8	10.8	15.5	10.4
PGV_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	15.7	17.0	25.7	36.5	18.3
Peak dynamic stress*	MPa	0.13	0.15	0.22	0.31	0.16
Static stress change	kPa					0.48
Energy density <sup>†</sup>	J m <sup>−3</sup>					0.24
Mw7.1 Darfield, 3/09/10 16:35:41						
Epicentral distance	km	191	169	175	223	180
PGA_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	62.1	77.6	127.9	52.4	75.1
PGA_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	121.0	204.5	278.6	180.7	178.8
PGV_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	18.2	13.9	22.5	7.8	16.0
PGV_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	27.3	27.4	43.5	26.6	28.8
Peak dynamic stress*	MPa	0.23	0.23	0.37	0.23	0.25
Static stress change	kPa					0.48
Energy density <sup>†</sup>	J m <sup>−3</sup>					0.18
Mw6.3 Christchurch, 21/2/11 23:51:42						
Epicentral distance	km	233	209	217	265	221
PGA_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	11.7	13.9	24.7	13.0	14.0
PGA_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup> sec <sup>−1</sup>	17.0	47.0	48.9	32.9	35.2
PGV_vert	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	2.3	2.6	2.8	1.6	2.5
PGV_horMAX	mm sec <sup>−1</sup>	3.9	3.8	9.5	4.2	4.4
Peak dynamic stress*	MPa	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.04	0.04
Static stress change	kPa					0.03
Energy density <sup>†</sup>	J m <sup>−3</sup>					0.01

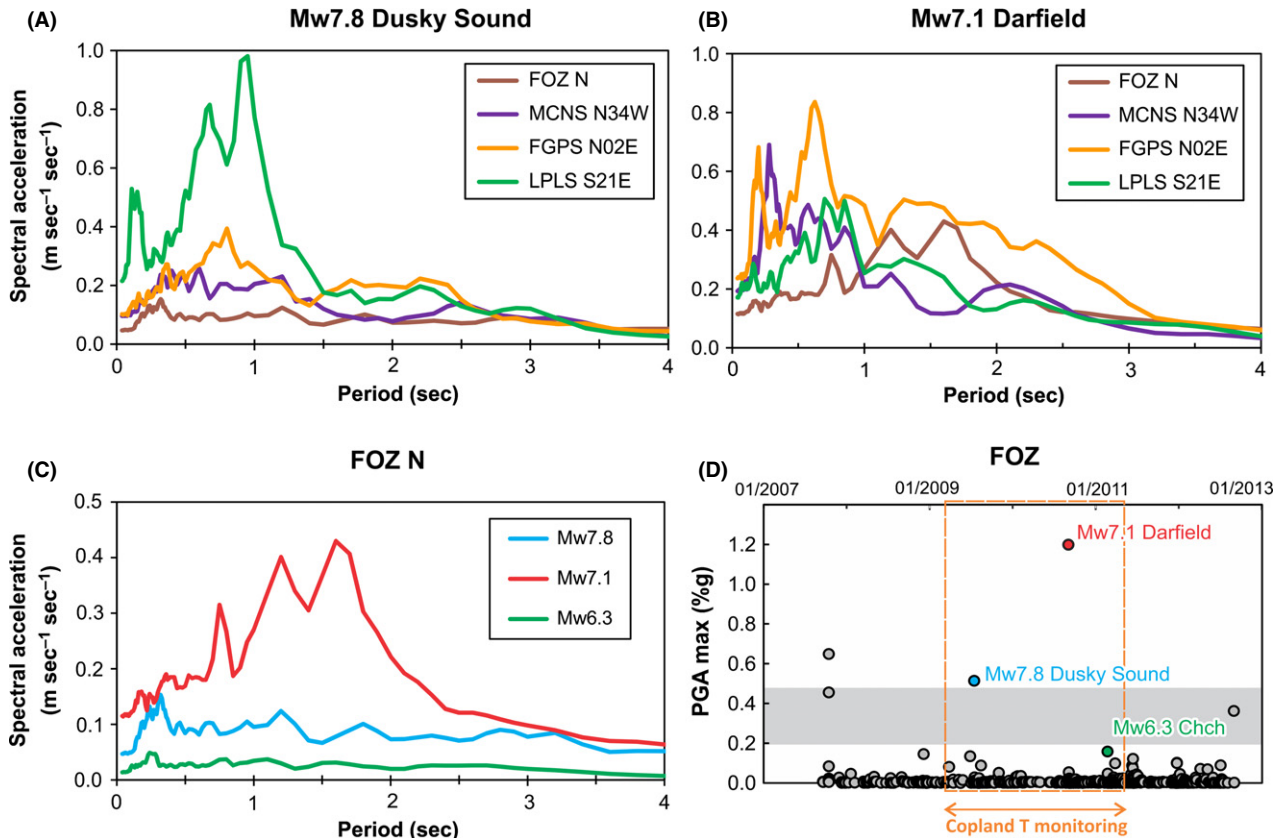
\*Estimated–PGV max times the shear modulus ( $3 \times 10^{10}$  Pa), divided by shear wave velocity ( $3.5 \text{ km sec}^{-1}$ ).<sup>†</sup>Seismic energy density after Wang & Manga (2010b).

Copland hot spring, corresponding to dynamic stresses over 0.1 MPa (Table 2). In contrast, during the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake, shaking was nearly all measured at  $< 35 \text{ mm sec}^{-2}$  and  $< 5 \text{ mm sec}^{-1}$  (dynamic stresses  $< 0.05 \text{ MPa}$ ) (Table 2). The maximum static stress changes in the vicinity of Copland hot spring, derived from seismic moment of the earthquakes, were far smaller, being approximately 0.5 kPa for the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes and 0.03 kPa for the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock. We conclude there is some form of shaking threshold for temperature changes at Copland hot spring, at PGA approximately 0.5% g and dynamic stresses somewhere between 0.05 and 0.1 MPa. These are essentially equivalent to thresholds that triggered nearby seismicity beneath the Main Divide 20–25 km north-east of Copland valley (Boese *et al.* 2014). Over the longer period of 2007–2012, there were five earthquakes that

produced PGA at FOZ  $> 0.2\%$  g (Fig. 9C) that may have been sufficient to produce a response at Copland hot spring. Records from the FOZ seismometer, as well as the more comprehensive National Seismic Hazard Model (Stirling *et al.* 2002, 2012), indicate this level of shaking can be expected every 1–10 years (see also Boese *et al.* 2014).

## PERMANENT DEFORMATION

A network of cGPS stations transects the Southern Alps, including sites on mountains immediately adjacent to Copland hot spring, and HAAS 100 km to the south-west (Fig. 1). Contemporary deformation is dominated by deep-seated slip on the Alpine Fault and locking from depths shallower than approximately 13–18 km (see also Beavan *et al.* 2007; Wallace *et al.* 2007). During the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake, there were clear offsets



**Fig. 9.** Earthquake shaking recorded at seismometers FOZ, MCNS, FGPS and LPLS of the GeoNet national network. (A) Selected spectral accelerations measured during the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake, for comparison with (B) records of the same channels during the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake. (C) Horizontal north–south spectral accelerations at FOZ during all three recent earthquakes. (D) A longer-term 5-year record of PGA max (% g) at FOZ, marked with orange lines showing the period that Copland spring was monitored, and grey shading for possible threshold levels above which shaking produces a response at Copland hot spring.

of GPS station horizontal positions (easting or northing) ranging from 6 to 15 mm (Table 3; see also Supporting Information; Beavan *et al.* 2010a,b). These are similar to, but much smaller than, offsets for cGPS stations closer to the epicentre (Beavan *et al.* 2010b), yet are still significant above uncertainties at 95% ( $2\sigma$ ) confidence levels. Smaller offsets occurred during the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake in 2010, with eleven stations having horizontal offsets of 2–8 mm that appear significant (Table 3). There were no discernable changes in the Southern Alps cGPS station positions (horizontal or vertical) as a result of the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock in February 2011. During the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake, the coseismic horizontal motion was consistently towards the south-west (Fig. 1B), deviating from long-term secular motion of South Island sites towards the north-west. South-west shifts are compatible with the direction of motions modelled for slip on the subduction interface beneath Fiordland during the Mw7.8 earthquake (Beavan *et al.* 2010b,c). In addition to horizontal shifts, there are clear earthquake-related changes in vertical position at the time of the earthquakes, albeit

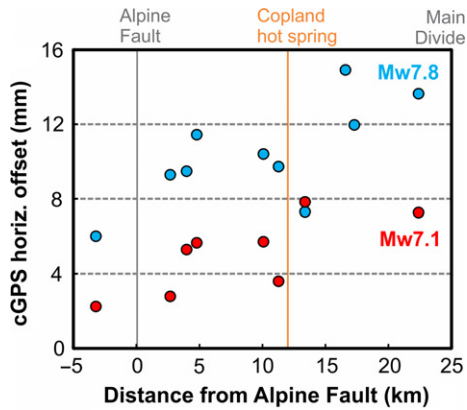
within a higher degree of uncertainty. Stations near Copland hot spring (VEXA, PILK, CNCL) decreased in elevation during the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake, but were surrounded by stations that decreased in elevation (Fig. 1B, Table 3). Most stations were uplifted during the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake.

The earthquake-induced motions recorded by the cGPS stations are small and of a scale that would be impossible to confirm by campaign-style geodetic studies. By plotting the horizontal offsets versus distance across the GPS transect from the Alpine Fault, we obtain a sense of the regional variation, which shows some consistency between the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes on the western side of the Southern Alps (Fig. 10). In both the earthquakes, there are differences of at least 6 mm in the offsets over the 30-km distance west of the Main Divide, with smallest offsets west of the Alpine Fault at QUAR. This indicates that both earthquakes induced small, permanent, dextral shear strains at amplitudes of between  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-6}$ . There are also local differences in vertical shifts, a local aberration at PILK (Table 3), or

**Table 3** Offsets in cGPS station north, east and vertical positions caused by the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes. HAAS is 100 km south-west along the Southern Alps from Copland spring (Fig. 1A). Note that due to the longer time series available for calculating secular trends in this study, values for HAAS differ slightly from Beavan *et al.* (2010b) and Mahesh *et al.* (2011).

SITE (Units)	E_NZTM (m)	N_NZTM (m)	EQdist (km)	East (mm)	1 $\sigma$ (mm)	North (mm)	1 $\sigma$ (mm)	Vert up (mm)	1 $\sigma$ (mm)	Horiz (mm)	Dir (deg)	AFdist (km)
Position Shift: Mw7.8 Dusky Sound Earthquake, 15 July 2009												
QUAR	1 342 705	5 175 214	356	-5.49	0.31	-2.43	0.18	-5.68	0.61	6.00	204	-3.2
KARA	1 339 750	5 166 567	348	-8.78	0.26	-3.02	0.18	<i>0.64</i>	<i>0.38</i>	9.28	199	2.7
LEOC	1 336 803	5 162 603	343	-8.87	0.28	-3.31	0.30	2.23	0.40	9.47	200	4.0
WAKA	1 348 538	5 169 611	356	-10.13	0.25	-5.30	0.26	2.18	0.39	11.43	208	4.8
VEXA	1 349 399	5 163 674	353	-9.72	0.51	-3.69	0.38	-9.38	1.62	10.40	201	10.1
CNCL	1 346 505	5 160 392	348	-8.54	0.26	-4.64	0.17	-4.08	0.45	9.72	209	11.3
PILK	1 351 779	5 161 217	353	-6.83	0.27	-2.58	0.20	-8.71	0.42	7.30	201	13.4
MAKA	1 346 467	5 154 322	344	-12.40	0.56	-8.27	0.34	5.16	0.75	14.90	214	16.6
REDD	1 351 911	5 156 610	349	-9.64	0.50	-7.08	0.33	2.88	0.70	11.96	216	17.3
MCKE	1 357 123	5 154 075	351	-10.27	0.56	-8.96	0.41	2.48	0.82	13.63	221	22.4
NETT	1 363 418	5 151 015	354	-10.84	0.65	-6.12	0.34	3.00	0.72	12.45	209	28.6
HORN	1 367 066	5 148 785	355	-11.17	0.47	-4.56	0.25	<i>0.02</i>	<i>0.95</i>	12.06	202	32.6
BNET	1 374 198	5 139 562	355	-9.45	0.35	-4.32	0.21	-2.88	0.60	10.39	205	44.3
HAAS <sup>†</sup>	1 262 516	5 111 354	256	-11.69	0.25	-6.09	0.22	<i>0.71</i>	<i>0.38</i>	13.18	208	4.4
Position Shift: Mw7.1 Darfield Earthquake, 4 Sept 2010												
QUAR	1 342 705	5 175 214	191	-1.24	0.40	-1.86	0.24	<i>0.66</i>	<i>0.79</i>	2.24	236	-3.2
KARA	1 339 750	5 166 567	194	-1.96	0.33	-1.98	0.22	4.88	0.48	2.79	225	2.7
LEOC	1 336 803	5 162 603	197	-2.57	0.33	-4.63	0.36	2.98	0.48	5.30	241	4.0
WAKA	1 348 538	5 169 611	185	-3.40	0.32	-4.52	0.33	4.72	0.51	5.66	233	4.8
VEXA	1 349 399	5 163 674	184	-4.23	0.46	-3.84	0.34	3.34	1.49	5.71	222	10.1
CNCL	1 346 505	5 160 392	188	-3.45	0.33	-1.00	0.21	4.41	0.56	3.59	196	11.3
PILK	1 351 779	5 161 217	182	-6.54	0.37	-4.30	0.28	5.04	0.57	7.83	213	13.4
MAKA*	1 346 467	5 154 322	188									16.6
REDD*	1 351 911	5 156 610	183									17.3
MCKE	1 357 123	5 154 075	178	-5.09	0.52	-5.18	0.35	-2.54	0.78	7.26	226	22.4
NETT	1 363 418	5 151 015	172	-2.22	0.58	0.81	0.30	6.33	0.64	2.36	520	28.6
HORN	1 367 066	5 148 785	169	-4.11	0.66	-5.03	0.35	<i>2.33</i>	<i>1.32</i>	6.50	231	32.6
BNET	1 374 198	5 139 562	164	-3.83	0.38	-3.72	0.24	<i>0.93</i>	<i>0.66</i>	5.34	224	44.3

NZTM, New Zealand Transverse Mercator; EQdist, epicentral distance between station and the earthquake; 1  $\sigma$ , standard errors; Horiz, total horizontal displacement; Dir, azimuth of the horizontal displacement; AFdist, distance between the station and the Alpine Fault. Shifts in italics/shaded are not significant at 2  $\sigma$  confidence levels. \*Semi-continuous sGPS site. Cannot estimate offsets due to insufficient data. <sup>†</sup>HAAS is 100 km south-west of the Copland springs.



**Fig. 10.** Calculated cGPS station horizontal offsets (in mm) during the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound (blue) and Mw7.1 Darfield (red) earthquakes, plotted against distance from the Alpine Fault in a transect south-eastwards across the Southern Alps at a high angle to the displacement vectors (see Fig. 1B). The regional variation in horizontal offset reflects permanent dextral shear strains imparted by the earthquakes. Copland hot spring is situated in the centre of the transect, 12 km from the Alpine Fault.

differences in horizontal offsets in a NW–SE direction, which point at volumetric strains of a similar ( $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$ ) magnitude along the Southern Alps. But given the strong alignment of the stations in a transect, with motions near the lower limits of resolution, we remain cautious not to over interpret these data. Importantly, we can be confident that both the earthquakes imparted permanent dextral strains of  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$  through rocks in the vicinity of Copland hot spring, which are at the lower limit of strains where permeability changes have been previously demonstrated to occur (Elkhoury *et al.* 2006; Manga *et al.* 2012). Although dynamic strains associated with seismic waves may have been higher, it means there is no requirement to invoke mechanisms that operate without permanent strains, such as pore unblocking, to explain changes observed at the spring.

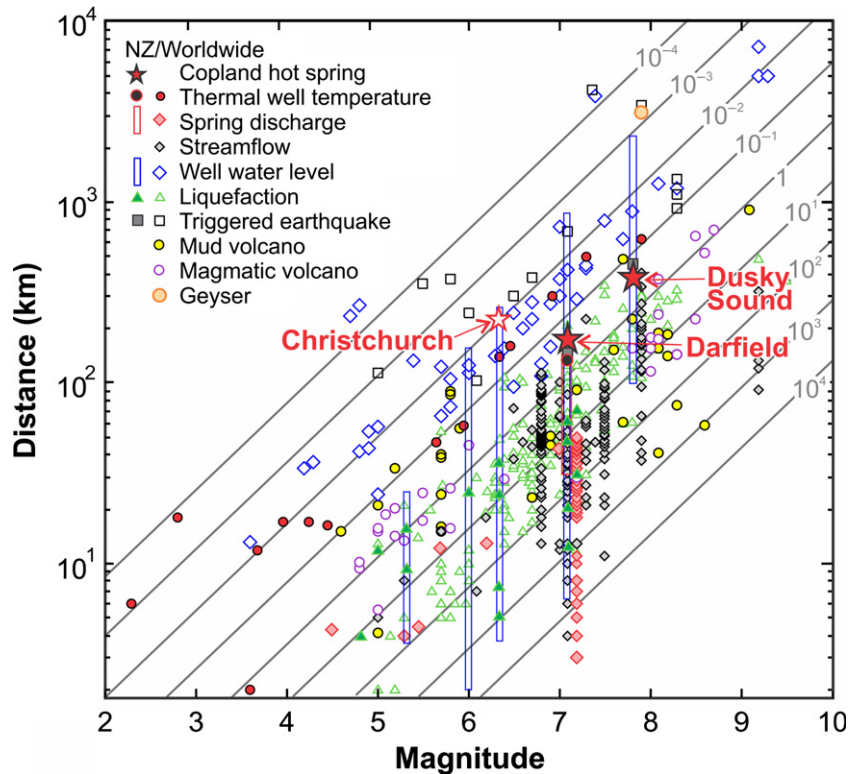
## DISCUSSION

Hydrological changes associated with moderate to large earthquakes around the world have been compiled as a function of earthquake magnitude and epicentral distance and related to seismic energy density as a measure of the maximum energy available to do work at a given location during an earthquake (Wang & Manga 2010a,b; Fig. 11). Relatively few studies have quantified earthquake-induced temperature changes in thermal springs and wells, although the phenomenon is long-recognised. Mogi *et al.* (1989) outlined temperature increases of approximately  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a 600-m deep, cased, geothermal well on Izu Peninsula (Japan) following nearby ( $< 600$  km distant) large earthquakes. These temperature changes, generally sharp rises in a step-like pattern with gentle linear cooling between

seismic events, were interpreted to reflect increased flow rates in the well, which occurred once seismic energy density reached approximately  $10^{-2} \text{ J m}^{-3}$  (Wang & Manga 2010b; see also Fig. 11). Other changes in thermal spring discharge, temperature or hydrochemistry have occurred at higher energy thresholds approximately  $10^{-1} \text{ J m}^{-3}$  (for streamflow) to approximately  $1 \text{ J m}^{-3}$  (for spring discharge) (e.g. King *et al.* 1994; Sato *et al.* 2000; Manga & Rowland 2009; Liu *et al.* 2010; see Wang & Manga 2010a,b). Increased discharge, conductivity or ionic concentrations of springs and streams after earthquakes are usually attributed to changes in permeability and post-seismic release of deep fluids (e.g. Rojstaczer & Wolf 1992; Sato *et al.* 2000; Favara *et al.* 2001). Observed thermal well and spring responses to earthquakes are most commonly opposite to the cooling and chemical dilution we describe at Copland hot spring (although see Howald *et al.* 2014).

Copland hot spring is derived from mixing of deep, upwelling, thermally heated meteoric water and a minor component of shallow, cool, infiltrating meteoric water. Our interpretation of the observed earthquake-related temperature and fluid chemistry responses is that shaking has altered the permeability structure of adjacent mountains or shallow crust, somehow opening or closing the aperture of fractures in schist bedrock. The earthquake-induced change in permeability alters the proportions of deep thermal to shallow meteoric water emerging at the surface, thereby creating a change in the pH, conductivity and trace element chemistry of spring water and contributing to the cooling. From observations immediately at hand, however, we cannot be entirely certain whether there was an increase in permeability that allowed greater quantities of cool near-surface groundwater to be driven downwards by topographic head to mix with upwelling hot water, or a decrease in permeability at depth that restricted the amount of upwelling hot water. We infer the former to be more likely, supported by arguments below.

Of importance is that the present flow regime in the Southern Alps can be affected at relatively low shaking intensity, hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre of an earthquake. The observed earthquake-related responses at Copland spring occurred in association with shaking at peak ground accelerations that are very unlikely to have exceeded approximately 2% g during these earthquakes, corresponding to Modified Mercalli (MM) intensities of III–IV (weak to light) and seismic energy densities of approximately  $10^{-1} \text{ J m}^{-3}$  (Fig. 11). Observed responses occurred when shaking exceeded PGA approximately 0.5% g and dynamic stresses exceeded 0.05–0.1 MPa. There was an absence in a clear thermal response to the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake at seismic energy density approximately  $10^{-2} \text{ J m}^{-3}$ . The threshold for response at Copland may be close to the approximately  $10^{-2} \text{ J m}^{-3}$  required



**Fig. 11.** The Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake-induced changes at Copland hot spring (star symbols) on an earthquake magnitude versus distance plot showing worldwide earthquake-triggered hydrological changes collated by Wang & Manga (2010a,b). Hydrological responses to New Zealand (NZ) earthquakes have been collated from Hancox *et al.* (2003), Cox *et al.* (2012b), Gulley *et al.* (2013) and Boese *et al.* (2014). The temperature change in Copland spring following the Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake is plotted for reference, although the response was not definitive. Contours of constant seismic energy density follow Wang & Manga (2010a,b), and thermal well temperature changes (Mogi *et al.* 1989) are distinguished from spring discharge changes (King *et al.* 1994; Sato *et al.* 2000; Manga & Rowland 2009) that were not shown in the original figures of Wang & Manga (2010a,b).

the artesian thermal well in Japan (Mogi *et al.* 1989) to respond (Fig. 11) and certainly lower than that recorded to produce changes in spring discharge elsewhere (King *et al.* 1994; Sato *et al.* 2000; Manga & Rowland 2009; Fig. 11). Records from the nearby FOZ seismometer and the more comprehensive National Seismic Hazard Model (Stirling *et al.* 2002, 2012) suggest this level of shaking can be expected at every 1–10 years. Correspondingly, subtle changes in permeability can be expected on an annual to decadal time scale in the central Southern Alps.

#### Temperature and chemistry constraints on hydrological flow models

When guided by site surface observations, spring discharge measurement and the mapped thermal anomaly (Fig. 3), the spring water temperature and chemistry observations provide information on the subsurface geometry of the Copland spring hydrothermal system. The emergence of water with hot temperature at the surface requires flow to be confined to a relatively narrow pathway such that its flow rate is sufficient to retain heat advected from depth. The response time associated with

rainfall-related cooling provides information about near-surface hydrology and heat exchange. The time lag of cooling onset and subsequent decay of temperature in response to earthquakes provides information about deeper hydrological change and heat exchange. Water chemistry observations confirm that cooling after earthquakes is associated with addition of cold meteoric fluids to the hydrothermal conduit.

Advected heat in the spring at the surface has an equivalent power of 1.4 MW, based on the total estimated flow rate ( $7 \text{ kg sec}^{-1}$  – includes main source vent and other small peripheral discharge seeps), the difference between spring temperature and ambient surface conditions ( $50.4^\circ\text{C}$ ), and specific heat capacity of water. Spring water chemical analyses indicate that the deep fluid source equilibrated at temperatures of at least approximately  $160^\circ\text{C}$ , which is estimated to be found at a depth of  $L = 2\text{--}3 \text{ km}$  beneath the ground at this location, on the basis of modelled and measured geothermal gradients in the region (Allis *et al.* 1979; Koons 1987; Sutherland *et al.* 2012). The surface temperature is approximately  $10^\circ\text{C}$ , so ambient conditions are approximately  $150^\circ\text{C}$  hotter at this depth. Fluid emerges at  $56\text{--}58^\circ\text{C}$ , so about one-third of the heat



is retained in the fluid and the rest must be conducted away laterally along its pathway to the surface. Flow from depth presumably occurs within a relatively porous, fractured zone in the schist.

Rain-related transient changes in temperature are rapid, responding and recovering in just a few hours. Finite difference models of a shallow reservoir that fills according to rain input and empties at a rate proportional to its fill height are able to explain the time lags and amplitudes of temperature change. The physical explanation is probably a combination of two factors: (i) dilution of spring water by near-surface groundwater from within the thin, underlying layer of alluvium and debris-flow sediment, including surface addition during times of particularly heavy rain (Fig. 2); and (ii) heat advection from the shallow thermal boundary layer around the hot spring during times of high near-surface cold-water flow through surface sediments. The rapid response reflects high near-surface permeability and very shallow depth of the processes (< 10 m).

Water chemistry, conductivity, and pH measurements indicate earthquakes are associated with connection of cold-water input to the hot spring conduit at depth. Thermal responses to the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes were delayed after arrival of seismic waves, by 180 and  $140 \pm 15$  min, respectively. It is possible that there was a delay between earthquake shaking and connection of the new cold input, similar to the lag between triggered swarms of seismicity observed beneath the Main Divide (Boese *et al.* 2014). However, we assume that the primary reason for the delay of temperature change onset relates to the time it takes to drain existing fluids between the new input at depth and the surface. At discharge of  $6 \pm 1$  l sec<sup>-1</sup>, between 38 and 82 m<sup>3</sup> of fluid was expelled during the 140- to 180-min delay. If the zone of fractured schist has porosity within the extremes of 10–25% and forms a conduit with cross-sectional area of between 1 m<sup>2</sup> (the dimension of the vent pool) and 10 m<sup>2</sup>, the depth of intersection for the cold-water input will be in a range of 15–410 m.

A small increase in temperature was observed following the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake. This might be explained by an increase in flow rate of the spring caused by an increase in permeability, allowing greater volumes of hot water to carry additional heat to the pool from within the fracture system at depth. Alternatively, it is possible that shaking increased CO<sub>2</sub> exsolution or shaking released CO<sub>2</sub> bubbles from fracture walls, resulting in an increased volume of gas and fluid rising to the surface, driving a greater flow rate, and hence an increased amount of heat supplied to the pool. The spring fluid and gas discharge rate was not continuously monitored.

We interpret the decay of temperature after an earthquake, which is approximately exponential, to reflect thermal capacitance of the rock within a thermal boundary

layer in and around the hot spring conduit. The temperature decay has a time constant of about 2 days (see Supporting Information Fig. S2), and the temperature change was entirely accomplished over 5–8 days. Assuming that there is an instantaneous change in source water temperature caused by dilution by a new cold-water pathway, as indicated from chemistry results, and integrating the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake-induced change in temperature through time, we find the thermal capacitor of the rock absorbs 4400 MJ. We assume an instantaneous change in input temperature caused by a new mixing ratio at the start of the exponential decay; a constant input temperature at the base of the capacitor during the decay that is equal to the final equilibrated temperature; a flow rate of 7 kg sec<sup>-1</sup>; and assume that the anomalous temperature of the fluid above the input temperature is derived from heat extracted from the capacitor. If the entire volume of the rock thermal buffer changed by the full 1°C temperature change, and assuming schist has specific heat capacity between 850 and 1000 J kg<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup> and 2.67 kg m<sup>-3</sup> density (Hatherton & Leopard 1964), then a rock volume of 1500–2000 m<sup>3</sup> is implied, although it is likely that some of the boundary layer changes by less. If we assume the cross-section area of the thermal boundary layer is similar to the surface elevated temperature anomaly area (Fig. 3), between 10 and 50 m<sup>2</sup>, then the depth of connection implied is in the range 30–200 m. Whilst the values adopted are selected with ranges that are deliberately extreme, the result is consistent with the time delay calculation result. Importantly, their corroboration implies that the input of shallower meteoric water that produces the characteristic cooling is a shallow process, occurring in the uppermost few hundred metres of schist bedrock.

### Key observations and interpreted mechanism

Although observations at Copland spring show that distal earthquakes can change the flow regime, fully connecting the field observations to mechanisms will require continuous monitoring of spring discharge, fluid chemistry and CO<sub>2</sub> degassing. Some pertinent observations are as follows:

- (1) Despite variable overprinting effects of rainfall, the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes produced a characteristic style of temperature response.
- (2) Cooling following the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake occurred from a background temperature that was already (still) depressed, 14 months after the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake had affected the system. The causal mechanism was capable of stacking one cooling on top of the next – the system temperature, and by inference permeability, it did not need to fully recover before being influenced by another large earthquake.
- (3) Earthquakes with quite different source characteristics (location, Mw, Me, direction) and resultant offsets

- recorded locally by cGPS, both produced small permanent dextral shear strains of  $10^{-7}$ – $10^{-6}$  and a similar characteristic response.
- (4) Nearest seismographs recorded quite different spectral patterns during the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes, so causal mechanisms are independent of shaking frequency.
  - (5) There are a number of similarities between observed earthquake-induced responses in Copland spring and nearby delayed-triggered microseismicity (Boese *et al.* 2014). Although no specific triggered swarms were noted in the vicinity of Copland valley, swarms occurred several hours after the earthquakes, lasting for approximately the same period it takes for Copland spring to adjust to a new cooler background temperature.
  - (6) The smaller Mw6.3 Christchurch earthquake produced either no response or at most a short-lived, small step-like temperature drop – despite having almost recovered to mid-2010 (pre-Mw7.1) background temperatures. Given the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake had previously influenced the system's temperature without the need for recovery, we suggest the 5-month period between the Mw6.3 Christchurch and the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes and partial recovery would have been sufficient for a response to have occurred and been observed had the Mw6.3 shaking been sufficiently large. We therefore infer that seismic amplitude is important for disturbing the subsurface fluid flow in the Southern Alps. A shaking threshold at around PGA approximately 0.5% g and/or with dynamic stresses of 0.05–0.1 MPa and seismic energy density approximately  $10^{-1}$  J m<sup>-3</sup> needs to be met to produce a characteristic response at Copland hot spring.
  - (7) Partial recovery had occurred around 1 year after the Mw7.1 Darfield earthquake, but total recovery had yet to occur by December 2013. Recovery does not seem to be as linear/characteristic as cooling decays, but appears likely to occur at annual to decadal time scales. Variable recovery times might not be unexpected given the Mw7.8 Dusky Sound earthquake was the largest seismic event experienced in the South Island for about 80 years.
  - (8) There is some degree of stability of the hydrothermal system, such that the spring has maintained a temperature at approximately 56°C for nearly four decades (since Barnes *et al.* 1978). The spring was visited by Māori in pre-European time and has been present at the site for sufficient time for a large deposit of travertine calcite to precipitate.

It has been shown in a recent contribution outlining meteoric infiltration into mountains of crystalline rock in Fiordland (Fig. 1A), that permeability cannot be a simple function of depth (Upton & Sutherland 2014). Instead,

upper crustal permeability is modelled as a function of strength and the state of stress in the rock, which correlates with the proximity of the rock mass to brittle failure criteria (see also Townend & Zoback 2000; Zoback 2010). Topography creates spatial heterogeneities in the proximity to failure that extend to depths similar to the height of adjacent mountains. The study proposes three processes that load the rock mass to failure and hence create permeability: long-term regional tectonic loading; short-term transient loading during phenomena such as earthquakes; and topography. Following this conceptual framework, we suspect that active deformation and topography must have an important influence on the processes observed in Copland spring and propose the setting of the Southern Alps in the hanging wall of the Alpine Fault may be particularly sensitive to influences such as distal earthquakes. The notion that tectonic and hydrogeological setting could be an important factor in determining the scale of groundwater response to distal earthquakes, with greater changes occurring at stress-sensitive sites, has also been proposed on the basis of continental-scale observations in China by Shi *et al.* (2014).

The central Southern Alps region is a locus for contemporary deformation, with geodetic-determined shear strain rates  $> 0.3$  ppm a<sup>-1</sup> and maximum uplift rate 10–20 km south-east of the Alpine Fault (Wallace *et al.* 2007; Beavan *et al.* 2010a). The contemporary deformation, however, does not correspond with the long-term (geologic) pattern of rock exhumation and deformation, in which the most strongly-deformed, highest-metamorphic grade mylonite and schist have been most recently exhumed immediately beside Alpine Fault at rates around  $10^{-2}$  m a<sup>-1</sup> (Little *et al.* 2005; Herman *et al.* 2009). Observed contemporary deformation in the upper crust is therefore thought to be largely elastic and expected to be released when the Alpine Fault next ruptures (Ellis *et al.* 2006; Beavan *et al.* 2007). The rapidly uplifting mountains appear to be in a state of incipient gravitational (Allen *et al.* 2011) as well tectonic failure, such that over multiple-earthquake timescales, there is a balance between uplift and erosion. Landslides, rock-falls and erosion presently generate annual suspended-sediment yields in the rivers that are amongst the highest in the world and broadly match long-term  $10^{-2}$  m.a<sup>-1</sup> rates of exhumation (see Hicks *et al.* 1996; Cox & Sutherland 2007; and refs therein). The central Southern Alps should be considered to be in a state of tectonic and topographic criticality (Koons 1994), or near-criticality, such that shaking at relatively low thresholds is potentially capable of generating perturbations to shallow fluid circulation.

GPS monitoring showed that earthquakes induced permanent shear strains of  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$  across the Southern Alps, and potentially local volumetric strains of a similar magnitude, that are towards the lower limits of resolution. Given the rate and state of elastic strain accumulation, it is conceiv-

able that the passage of seismic waves could have triggered the release of stored elastic deformation or perturbed the topographic stress state, thereby contributing to the motions and strain recorded by the GPS network. It may imply the local ambient stress state of the rock mass is important in the evolution of permeability and hydrological responses at intermediate- and far-field distances, so therefore warrants further research. Given also that the Alpine Fault is late in a regular cycle of stress accumulation (Sutherland *et al.* 2007; Berryman *et al.* 2012), some form of rupture seems imminent and much may soon be learnt about the evolution of permeability and the flow regime in the Southern Alps.

Flow of fluid through tight schist rocks will be highly sensitive to small changes in the apertures of the fractures and connected networks. Based on the situation presented above, we suspect the passage of seismic waves exploits either topographic and/or stored tectonic stress to enhance permeability through the physical opening of fractures, or minor generation of new fractures, in the uppermost few kilometres. The strains are likely to be small at a regional scale, at least  $10^{-7}$  or  $10^{-6}$  as recorded by motion of the cGPS network, although locally could be potentially larger reflecting the presence of critically oriented fractures. Closure of the fracture network might then occur through the regional plate-tectonic-related strain, which accumulates at between  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-6} \text{ a}^{-1}$  in the Southern Alps so has potential to facilitate physical recovery within about 1–10 years.

The explanation of fracture opening, above, draws on the observation of permanent strain induced by the earthquakes. However, there are alternative explanations, or other physical and chemical mechanisms at Copland hot spring which could also contribute to observed responses and changes in permeability. For example, PGV values (Table 2) suggest the passage of seismic waves imparted dynamic stresses exceeding 0.05–0.10 MPa, which might enable the fractures to become unclogged and/or held open by some form of chemical process, cleaned by an increase in turbidity, or poroelastic pressuring (Manga *et al.* 2012). Copland hot spring fluid, at least in the near surface, is a two-phase mixture in which  $\text{CO}_2$  bubbles are dispersed in suspending water. The  $\text{CO}_2$  bubbles potentially block channels through capillary forces, inhibiting the bulk flow and fluid mobility. So a change in the mobilisation or nucleation of gases by seismic waves could conceivably lead to an increase in bulk flow rate and an apparent increase in permeability. However, for such a mechanism to continue over periods of the observed responses at Copland spring, it would also need some form of sustained local disequilibrium through changes in temperature, fluid phase or invasion of new fluids, or allow flow that generates a poroelastic response that keeps fractures open for a sustained period. Based on evidence of prolonged, earthquake-induced, infiltration of cool, unexchanged, meteoric

water into a fault-controlled geothermal system, Howald *et al.* (2014) suggested crustal-permeability changes can last much longer lived than previously thought ( $> 10^3$  years).

The rate of recovery of the flow regime at Copland, extending over years or even tens of years, is also consistent with the notion of effects limited by kinetics or diffusive mass transport. The spring actively exsolves  $\text{CO}_2$  and has deposited a travertine terrace at the surface. During upwelling, the drop in pressure causes  $\text{CO}_2$  to degas from the fluid, raising its pH and causing precipitation of calcite. Calcite is a common mineral phase within joint coatings, fault gouge and veins in the schist, with calcite precipitation inferred to have occurred at a range of depths in the subsurface (Koons *et al.* 1998; Boulton *et al.* 2014; Menzies *et al.* 2014). Recovery of the hydrothermal system following an earthquake could therefore involve a slow clogging of fractures and aperture closure by precipitation of calcite, rather than physical closure by accumulation of tectonic-related stress.

Without monitoring the exact discharge and state of two-phase flow, we cannot fully decipher the interplay of chemical and physical processes to conclusively elucidate the causal mechanism(s). However, the hydrothermal flow regime was clearly perturbed, and observations at Copland spring provide some fresh insight. Observations of Copland spring responses also correspond with observations of nearby-triggered seismicity (Boese *et al.* 2014), so we propose the transient permeability is a function of stress and strength of the rock (Upton & Sutherland 2014), and proportional to the proximity of failure. Copland spring provides empirical evidence that mountains at active plate boundaries are susceptible to infiltration, advection of heat and transient changes in permeability.

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Thermal springs in the Southern Alps, New Zealand, originate through deep penetration of meteoric fluids into a thermal anomaly generated by rapid uplift and exhumation in the hanging wall of the Alpine Fault. The Copland hot spring ( $-43.629\text{S}$ ,  $169.946\text{E}$ ) is one of the most vigorously flowing of the springs, discharging strongly effervescent  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich water at  $6 \pm 1 \text{ l sec}^{-1}$ . Rainfall, air and vent water temperatures were continuously monitored at 15-min intervals from March 2009 to July 2011. The spring fluctuated at background values between 56 and 58°C, with minor diurnal variation, but fell dramatically to approximately 40°C during heavy rainfall when deep upwelling fluids are diluted near surface by cool meteoric water. Recovery to background temperatures typically took 3–5 h after rain stopped falling, depending on the rain-storm magnitude. Smaller, but more sustained temperature decreases occurred in response to shaking from distal

earthquakes. The Mw7.8 Dusky Sound (Fiordland) earthquake on 15 July 2009, centred 350 km south-west of the Copland spring, produced weak to light shaking intensities in the area (approximately MM III–IV) and low PGAs (0.4–2.3% g) at nearby seismographs and horizontal south-west displacements of 6–12 mm at cGPS stations nearby. After  $180 \pm 15$  min delay, the spring showed a warming of  $0.20 \pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$ , followed by a  $0.9 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$  cooling over a 5-day period. Temperature remained depressed until the Mw7.1 Darfield (Canterbury) earthquake on 4 September 2010, centred 180 km east of Copland spring, when shaking at approximately MMIV (light) intensities and PGA 0.5–2.8% g resulted in a further  $1.1 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$  cooling delayed  $140 \pm 15$  min after the earthquake. Comparison of the temperature responses suggests they followed a characteristic cooling that did not require recovery between earthquakes and perhaps that similar features were activated by the ground motion. Shaking during the Mw6.3 Christchurch aftershock on 22 February 2011 was mostly  $< 0.5\%$  g at nearby seismographs and was unable to produce the same response, but possibly induced a  $0.36 \pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$  cooling masked behind effects of rainfall.

The Copland hot spring appears to respond characteristically to distal (intermediate-field) large earthquakes once shaking at PGA approximately 0.5% g and/or a dynamic stress threshold of approximately 0.05–0.10 MPa has been overcome, following an exponential temperature decay that is quite distinct from more rapid rainfall-related cooling. The passage of seismic waves, even at low MMIII–IV shaking intensities,  $\text{PGA} < 2\%$  g and seismic energy density around approximately  $10^{-1} \text{ J m}^{-3}$ , can affect spring temperature, producing responses independent of variations in spectral frequency. Cooling at Copland spring was accompanied by a fluid pH increase and electrical conductivity decrease, reflecting a change in the mixture of deep-circulated hydrothermal meteoric fluid and shallow-circulating meteoric fluid. cGPS stations indicate Mw7.8 Dusky Sound and Mw7.1 Darfield earthquakes caused permanent shifts with motion near the lower limits of detection, which were sufficient to induce static strains of  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$  across the central Southern Alps. Such shaking thresholds will be exceeded and potentially affect the hydrothermal flow regime at annual to decadal timescales.

Deciphering the exact mechanisms responsible for Copland spring response to earthquakes has been hampered by not knowing the exact discharge of the hot spring through time. We infer the temperature and hydrochemical responses reflect subtle earthquake-induced changes in the  $10^{-15}$ – $10^{-12} \text{ m}^2$  fracture permeability of schist mountains adjacent to the spring, allowing greater quantities of cool near-surface groundwater to mix with upwelling hot water. Our favoured mechanism is a physical opening or generation of new fractures in the uppermost few hundred metres

of the schist bedrock, perhaps later closing under gradual readjustment to regional stress, but there is potential for combined physical–chemical mechanisms to play a role in the process, particularly the deposition of calcite during post-earthquake recovery. We propose that active deformation, tectonic and topographic stress make the hanging wall of the Alpine Fault particularly susceptible to earthquake-induced transient permeability changes.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

**Data S1.** Schist permeability, Chemical methods, Seismic and Geodetic data, Thermal decay observations and model.

**Figure S1.** Decomposed time-series of easting, northing and height measurements at continuous GPS stations CNCL and KARA, plotted relative to their secular modes.

**Figure S2.** Temperature data from Copland hot spring following the Dusky Sound earthquake on Wednesday 15 July 2009 at 9:22 pm NZST (red line).

**Table S1.** Permeability and hydraulic conductivity data from Lugeon packer tests (PT), head response tests (HT) or other methods found in unpublished engineering and/or consultancy reports for the Haast Schist Group, which encompasses both Alpine and Otago schists.