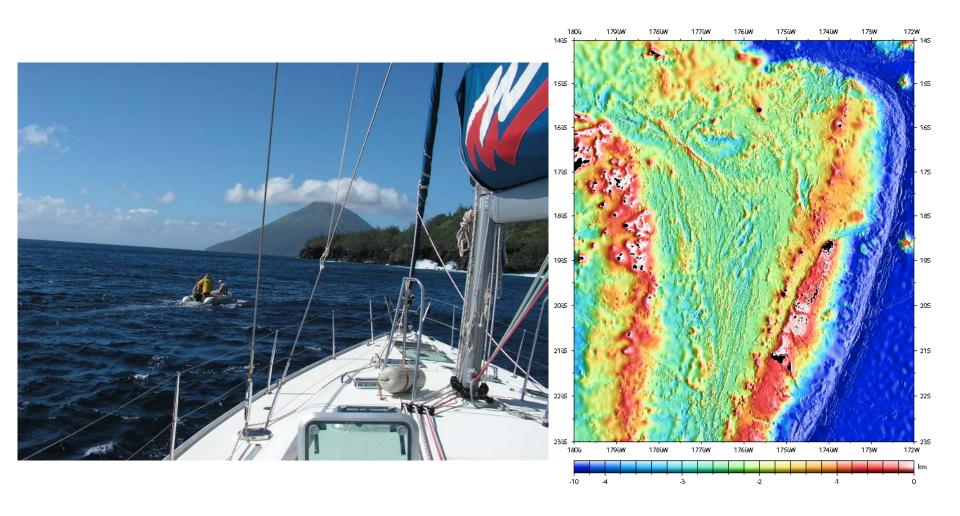
The Tonga-Kermadec-New Zealand arc - Lau back-arc: future directions

Simon Turner



Tonga-Kermadec arc - Lau back arc

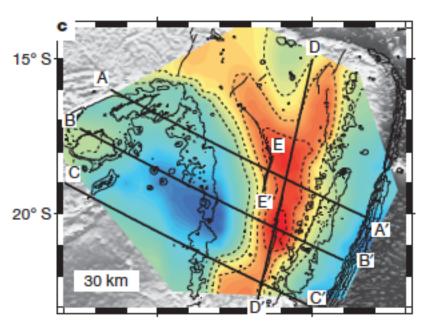


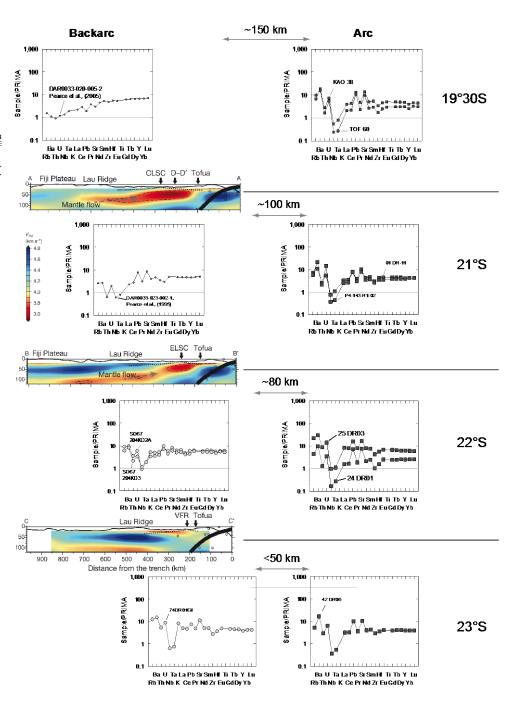
LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14113

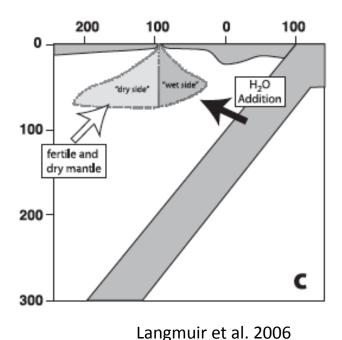
Seismic evidence of effects of water on melt transport in the Lau back-arc mantle

S. Shawn Wei¹, Douglas A. Wiens¹, Yang Zha², Terry Plank², Spahr C. Webb², Donna K. Blackman³, Robert A. Dunn⁴ & James A. Conder⁵



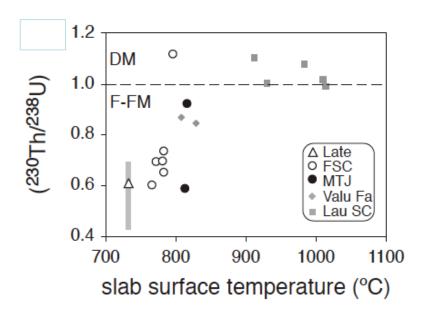


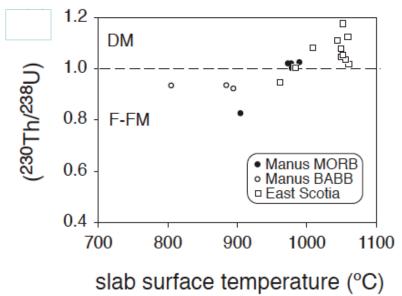
Major and trace element data suggest a change from fluid-fluxed melting to melting dominated by decompression with increasing distance from the arc front:

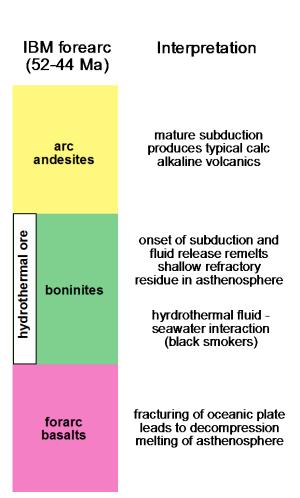


120 ∆ Late o FSC 100 MTJ Valu Fa 80 Lau SC fluiddecompression melting fluxed Ва 60 melting 40 fractionation 20 10 15 0 5 20 Yb 3.5 decompression MORB melting 3.0 2.5 2.0 Na₈ 1.5 1.0 fluid-fluxed 0.5 melting/prior depletion 0.0 5 3 11 13 Fe₈

Is there a general shift from fluid-fluxed to decompression dominated melting when the slab surface reaches ~ 900°C?



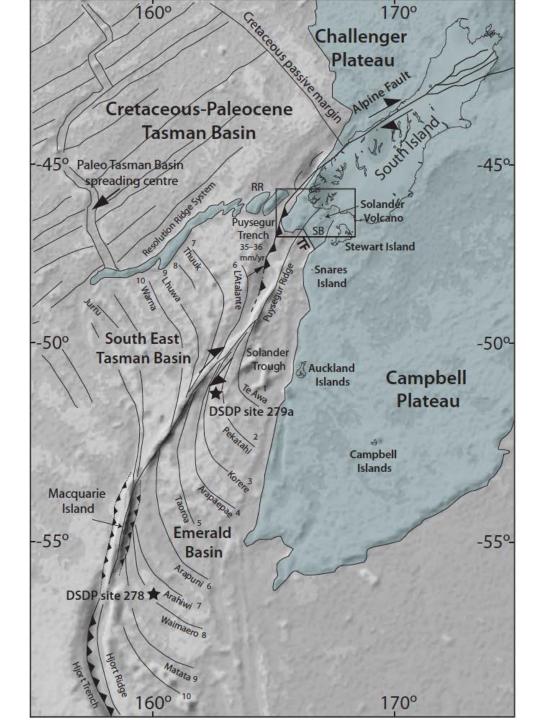






During the study, these over-arching scientific questions will be addressed:

- 1. During subduction initiation what controls the transition from a forced to self-sustaining state?
- 2. What are the mechanical properties of the oceanic plate during incipient subduction?
- 3. At what stage of subduction initiation are metamorphic fluids released?
- 4. At what stage of subduction initiation does a hot, circulating mantle wedge with melt generation form above the subducting slab?
- 5. How are the thermal and mechanical state of the subducting plate and mantle wedge linked to the compositions of the volcanic rocks?



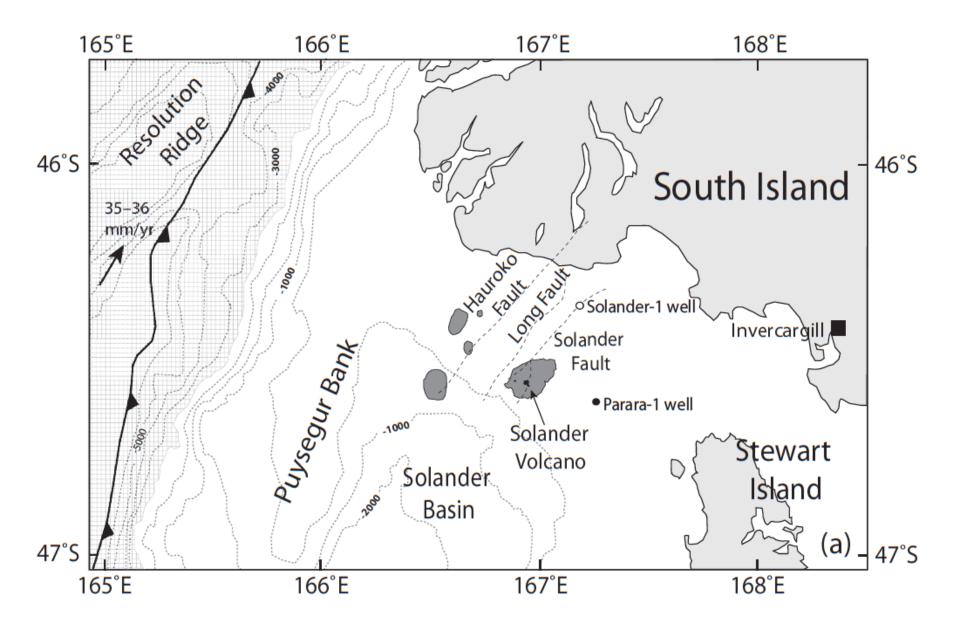
Puysequr Trench and Solander Island:

Major tectonic features of New Zealand shows the setting of Solander volcano and Puysegur Trench.

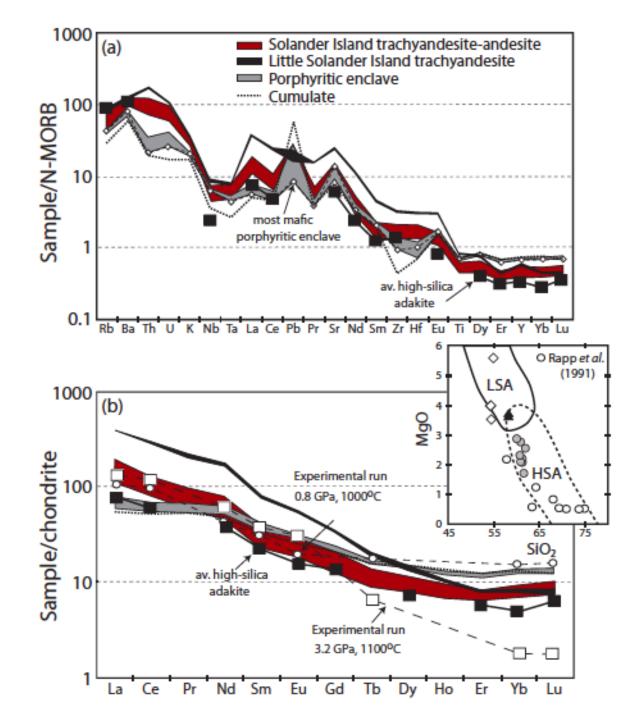
- Induced subduction developing from a strike-slip fault system.
- Pacific plate and current plate motion is 35-36 mm/yr. Very oblique
- Subduction began 10-12 million years ago. Slab melting proposed by Reay and Parkinson (1997) to explain adakitic volcanism of Solander Island

An excellent natural laboratory to study subduction initiation (GeoPrisms SCD Key Site)

* Solander volcanism was the topic of Fiona Foley's PhD thesis, Foley et al., 2013; 2014







Trace element plots for the Solander sample suite:

(a) Primitive mantlenormalized (Sun & McDonough, 1989)

(b) Chondrite-normalized. (Sun & McDonough, 1989). Included are dehydration experiments on amphibolite. Note they are flatter than expected if partial melting occurred with garnet.

The average high-silica adakite from Martin et al. (2005) is shown for comparison.

Active source seismic experiment

