

Window into pre-history

WAIROA lagoons are giving scientists insight into pre-historic earthquakes and tsunamis, and more recent geological events.

A team of scientists from the University of Southern Mississippi and GNS Science have been surveying various field sites along the East Coast looking for evidence of past tsunami and earthquake events.

The lagoons east of Wairoa are known to contain a good archive of old earthquakes and tsunamis but the current focus is on more recent events.

A sediment core taken at Ohuia Lagoon near Wairoa is already of interest to the scientists but before they can say for sure whether or not these cores provide evidence of past tsunami events, the sediment needs to be analysed.

"Finding evidence of large tsunamis and earthquakes that have hit the area pre-historically can help us learn more about what might happen in the future," said GNS Science's Dr Ursula Cochran.

The scientists initially carry out a visual assessment of sediment layers and, if considered worthwhile, they take a sediment core using a long, steel, tubular sediment corer.

The corer is pushed as far into the ground as possible; when it can't go any further, it's pulled to the surface and then analysed.

University of Southern Mississippi assistant professor Jessica Pilarczyk said: "We'll take these cores back to the lab and look at them under the microscope, and do things like high-resolution grain size analysis, palaeontological analysis and geochemical analysis."

While this analysis takes time, it will help provide evidence of past earthquakes and tsunamis. This information can then be used



OUT IN THE FIELD: Scientists from University of Southern Mississippi collect core samples from Ohuia Lagoon.

to understand and better plan for future events.

The work is part of a four-year US National Science Foundation (NSF) funding research programme called the "SHIRE: Seismogenesis at Hikurangi Integrated Research Experiment" and ties in with a five-year NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation

and Employment research programme called "Hikurangi Subduction Earthquakes and Slip Behaviour".

Further field work will be carried out early next year and details of the work and the scientists' progress will be available through East Coast LAB (Life at the Boundary) - www.eastcoastlab.com.

Community views sought on Easter Sunday trading

COUNCILLORS resolved to gather community views on whether certain shops should be able to trade on Easter Sunday.

At Tuesday's Wairoa District Council meeting, councillors agreed the community and shop owners should have a say on whether they could trade on the statutory holiday.

The statement of proposal includes two different types of policy which could be created, with one being for all the district, or a policy restricted to certain areas of the district.

Council governance adviser and policy strategist Charlotte Knight said the current policy only saw a select few shops open on Easter Sunday.

The option to change policy came about after the Government decided to make this issue a local government issue, rather than national.

The Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 was amended in 2016 to enable territorial authorities to create local policies to allow wider shop trading across their entire district or in designated areas on Easter Sunday.



□ The East Coast is the place to be for holidaymakers this summer, with sunny weather forecast well into next week and temperatures averaging nearly 30 degrees this month.

More hot weather forecast

THE BIG dry continues, with gardeners and farmers looking skyward for any signs of rain.

Baking hot temperatures return on Sunday with 32 degrees forecast and again on Tuesday, followed by a scorcher of 34 degrees expected on Wednesday.

The beach weather

continues through the week as Wairoa schools reopen for the new year.

Minimum temperatures continue to favour campers with 17-18 degree nights from Tuesday through to Friday.

This month's average maximum temperature is sitting at 29.7 degrees.



Scholarships

Closing date:
4pm
January 31,
2017
or next
business
day

The Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board scholarship was established in 2012 to encourage the participation of beneficiaries of the Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board to achieve academic qualifications at a diploma level or higher.

The Board has allocated funds of \$45,000 over a 3 year period, to support three students to achieve academic success at a New Zealand Tertiary Institution.

The Board Scholarships are available for approved studies at a New Zealand tertiary education institute for a term of three consecutive years in full-time or limited full-time study at the following levels:

- Undergraduate (Diploma)
- Undergraduate/Bachelor Degree
- Last year of a Bachelor with Honours Degree
- Graduate or Postgraduate Diploma, Master and PhD/Doctoral levels.

The Board will prioritise applicants who have enrolled in disciplines of strategic benefit to the Trust Board and the Wairoa district.

Each scholarship will be to the value of \$5000 per year, for a maximum of 3 years to be paid in installments of \$2500. The first instalment will be paid on approval of application and further instalments will be paid at the beginning of each following semester. Subsequent instalments will be subject to proof of applicants' completion and achievement of the previous academic year.

Further information and application forms are available from the Wairoa Waikaremoana Trust Board, P.O. Box 162, WAIROA 4160, H.B. Please contact Jackalin Manuel at the above address of by phone 06 838 8262 or email address: wwmtb@xtra.co.nz

PAINTING?
JOHANSEN CONTRACTING
Painting - Wallpapering
Gib-stopping
Registered Master Painter for over 35 Years
FREE QUOTES
Phone Min at 838 7899 or 027 246 6656

Petite Fleur
Hair Salon
Qualified Hairdresser Teresa
For all things hair
Colours - Perms
Cuts - Blow Waves
Straightenings
Paul Street - Phone 838 8084

ADAMS ENGINEERING
HYDRAULIC HOSES
BOLTS STEEL
GALVANISED PIPE
TOOLS PAINT
PLUS MORE INSTORE
CARROLL STREET
PHONE 838 8635

BAY GASFITTING AND ELECTRICAL
• LPG Rinnai Infinities
• GAS Ranges, Hobs, Fires
• All aspects of Gas and Electrical work
FUJITSU HEAT PUMPS
NEW ZEALAND'S FAVOURITE AIR™
FUJITSU ACCREDITED INSTALLER 6 YEAR WARRANTY
Registered Fujitsu Installers
Free WINZ quotes
Phone Grant 021 554 970 or Mohaka 06 837 6849

HILL AG
FARM & AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS
Water Delivery, Earth Moving, Cultivation & Spray Solutions
Contact Darren Hill
0274 888 549
waitarafarm@gisborne.net.nz