

2018
New Zealand
Rutherford Lecture

The Life and Times of Supervolcanoes



Professor Colin Wilson
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Victoria University of Wellington

2017 Rutherford Medal winner for research into understanding large, explosive supervolcanoes and the hazards they pose.

Aotearoa New Zealand sits astride the Indo-Australian and Pacific tectonic plates and is subject to tremendous natural forces. Usually experienced as earthquakes, Kiwis also need to keep in mind that Lake Taupō was created by the world's most violent volcanic eruption within the last 50,000 years!

Colin Wilson has gathered many accolades for studying volcanoes, and in particular, supervolcanoes. He likens his work to that of a crime scene investigator, piecing together the dual puzzle of why such cataclysmic explosions occur and why they are joined by much smaller eruptions. His aim is to forecast volcanic phenomena with enough warning so that communities can respond. But although Colin is digging deep in the Earth's crust to find the triggering mechanisms, volcanic systems are not letting their secrets go easily...

This nationwide tour is proudly presented in partnership with GNS Science, EQC and Victoria University of Wellington.

ROTORUA | Tues 21 August 6pm
Millennium Hotel Rotorua

TAURANGA | Wed 22 August 5:30pm
Tauranga Yacht and Boat Club

WHAKATĀNE | Thurs 23 August 5:30pm
Whakatāne Little Theatre

NAPIER | Tues 28 August 6pm
Napier Conference Centre Ballroom

GISBORNE | Wed 29 August 6pm
War Memorial Theatre

TAUPŌ | Thurs 30 August 5:30pm
Great Lake Centre Theatre

All Welcome. Free Admission.
Please register: royalsociety.org.nz/events

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