

2018  
New Zealand  
Rutherford Lecture

# The Life and Times of Supervolcanoes



Professor Colin Wilson  
FRS FRSNZ  
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.

**MASTERTON | Mon 3 September 5:30pm**  
Solway College Hall

**PALMERSTON NORTH | Tues 4 September 7:30pm**  
Palmerston North Boys High School  
Speirs Centre

**NEW PLYMOUTH | Wed 5 September 5:30pm**  
Puke Ariki

**WELLINGTON | Wed 12 September 6pm**  
Victoria University of Wellington,  
Rutherford House (Pipitea Campus) RHLT1

All Welcome. Free Admission.

Please register: [royalsociety.org.nz/events](http://royalsociety.org.nz/events)

*Views expressed at these events may not reflect those of Royal Society Te Apārangi.*



EXPLORE | DISCOVER | SHARE

ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
TE APĀRANGI