



By Email: fyi-request-27426-43cd359c@requests.fyi.org.nz

1 July 2024

Dear Mike,

Re: Official Information Request – GNS News Post – 28 Jun 2024

I refer to your Official Information request of 28 June 2024 as follows:

*I received a push notification today linking to this article:
<https://www.geonet.org.nz/news/7jQ9BUiWfkBi59jzpiCl6f>*

The article contains the following:

"Science tells us that Rūaumoko rumbles the Alpine Fault about every 300 years, and the last time was in 1717."

Unusually, it doesn't cite any sources. As a CRI steeped in the scientific method - could you please provide the scientific sources and research that provides evidence for the existence of "Rūaumoko" and the role of that deity in the movement of fault lines referenced in this article.

Also relevant communications relating to the choice of this scientific information for inclusion in the referenced news post.

- In response to your request, GNS does not hold any scientific sources or research "that provides evidence for the existence of Rūaumoko" and the role of that deity in the movement of fault lines referenced in this article." On that basis, there are also no communications "relating to the choice of this scientific information for inclusion in the referenced news post".*

However, there is scientific information to support the view that there is activity on the Alpine Fault every 300 years with the last event being in 1717. This was how GNS Science intended the relevant statement in the article should be interpreted.

The following links provide some useful material:

[Storytelling helps emergency preparedness | Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu \(ngaitahu.iwi.nz\)](#)

[AF8 | Explore the Science](#)

[Video Resources \(af8.org.nz\)](#)

[AF8 Science Talk - Evidence for past large earthquakes on the Alpine Fault \(youtube.com\)](#)

Your rights

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna Jellie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna Jellie
Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited
General Counsel