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Lahar at New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu March 18, 2007

A lahar at New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu is all but over, without causing anywhere the level of havoc for which authorities were prepared.

The event was first confirmed by a 3 News helicopter, and then the Department of Conservation.

The Department of Conservation had said that a "moderate lahar" was moving down the side of Mount Ruapehu.

The lahar travelled down the Whangaehu Valley, past the Tongariro catchment; and then continued on to the Tangiwai Bridge, the site of the 1953 Tangiwai disaster, which was itself caused by a lahar.

The crater lake is currently being reported by a free phone number as at a warning level of 3a. The crater lake is also being reported at a level between 5.7-6.7 metres up the Crater Lake tephra dam.

The lahar emergency plan was activated by Civil Defence. The district mayor of Ruapehu, Sue Morris, and conservation minister, Chris Carter, said that the authorities had been very quick to respond to the emergency. All three electronic surveillance technologies had their alarms activated. Mr Carter said, "The lahar travelled down the path as predicted, and the early warning response system that this government

provided worked exactly as planned."

Highways near Mount Ruapehu were closed by the Ohakune police, including the Desert Road. The roads have now been re-opened.

A lahar has been expected for a long time now, and scientists say the lahar could have been caused by, among other things, the bad weather New Zealand has been having lately.

Since 1996 the water level in the crater lake at the top of Mount Ruapehu has been rising, which created a risk of a lahar last year.



Before the lahar at midday (UTC+12) at the Tangiwai Bridge at Whangaehu Valley.



Mount Ruapehu's lahar as of 1.11 p.m.



Mount Ruapehu's lahar as of 2.15 p.m.



After the lahar at 6.38 p.m.

2007 Cricket World Cup: New Zealand vs Kenya March 20, 2007

New Zealand beat Kenya by 148 runs in Group C of the World Cup at the Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia.

This victory qualifies New Zealand for the Super 8 phase.

Toss: Kenya won, and elected to field first.

Fall of wickets (Kenya): 1-4 (DO Obuya, 2.3 ov), 2-8 (Ouma, 5.2 ov), 3-26 (Tikolo, 10.5 ov), 4-29 (Mishra, 11.4 ov), 5-76 (CO Obuya, 20.3 ov), 6-

122 (Shah, 29.6 ov), 7-149 (Kamande, 35.3 ov), 8-167 (Onyango, 41.6 ov), 9-179 (Odoyo, 44.2 ov), 10-183 (Ongondo, 49.2 ov).

Fall of wickets (New Zealand): 1-0 (Vincent, 0.4 ov), 2-105 (Fleming, 20.1 ov), 3-192 (Taylor, 33.4 ov), 4-274 (Styris, 43.1 ov), 5-280 (Oram, 44.4 ov), 6-307 (McCullum, 47.6 ov), 7-321 (McMillan, 49.2 ov)

New Zealand: S P Fleming (capt), L Vincent, R L Taylor, S B Styris, J D P Oram, C D McMillan, B B McCullum (wkt), D L Vettori, J E C Franklin, S E Bond, M J Mason

Kenya: M A Ouma (wkt), D O Obuya, R D Shah, S O Tikolo (capt), T Mishra, C O Obuya, T M Odoyo, J K Kamande, L N Onyango, P J Ongondo, H A Varaiya

Player of the match: R L Taylor (New Zealand)

Umpires: B R Doctrove and R E Koertzen (South Africa)

TV umpire: P D Parker (Australia)

Match referee: M J Procter (South Africa)

Reserve umpire: Asad Rauf (Pakistan)

Full analysis of this match, and others, is available online at en.wikinews.org.

US President Bush and NZ Prime Minister Clark meet March 22, 2007

Today, President George Bush welcomed New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark to the White House to discuss common efforts in the War on Terror and review efforts to advance and strengthen bilateral relations.



The Prime Minister spent 30 minutes at the Oval Office with the President,

who says the discussions were fruitful and included the importance of America and New Zealand cooperating to help democracy in places such as Afghanistan, commerce, the environment and the need for energy security.

"We talked about the South Pacific, and I praised the prime minister on her leadership in these difficult issues," President Bush said.

He told reporters he understood that countries in the region needed New Zealand's leadership, with US and Australian assistance.

The US would help "in any way we can," he said.

It was Clark's second formal meeting with the President since she became

prime minister, although they have met nine times on other occasions.

The talks in the Oval Office marked the development of a closer relationship between New Zealand and the US, and it was only the third time a New Zealand prime minister has visited the White House in 24 years.

He said he had thanked Clark for New Zealand's commitment to the international force in Afghanistan.

Clark, who had lunch with President Bush in the White House after the meeting, said their talks had been constructive.

Clark praised U.S. involvement in

Pacific affairs that has increased after a preoccupation with events in the Middle East. The Bush administration said last week it is working to boost its diplomatic presence in the Pacific islands after years of inadequate attention.

"The U.S. is focusing on the problems of the South Pacific, Clark said. "We've had close coordination.

She said this cooperation included addressing the aftermath of a coup by military leaders who seized power in Fiji in December, as well as issues in the Solomon Islands and on Tonga, where a deadly riot destroyed most of the capital in November after the government appointed by the royal family was going to defer a plan to introduce democratic reforms.

“ Every time I've talked to Helen Clark I've found a very straightforward, honest woman who cares deeply about the country she represents. ... We talked about the importance for the United States and New Zealand to work cooperatively in helping democracy in places like Afghanistan. We talked about North Korea and Iran, our mutual desire for these problems of nations wanting to have nuclear weapons to be solved in a peaceful way, by using the diplomatic process.

— President Bush

The Prime Minister also said that the talks covered a broad list of topics that New Zealand has been a willing

partner in helping to address, including counter-terrorism, the work in Afghanistan, work around the North Korean problem and the Iran nuclear issue. However, there was no breakthrough on New Zealand's quest for a free trade deal with the US. Clark feels America is open to the proposal, but says adding any new country to the list at the moment is a fractious issue in Congress which is still trying to deal with the agreements already being negotiated. She also raised the question of trade with the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi yesterday and asked her to look at New Zealand's request sympathetically.

2007 Cricket World Cup: New Zealand vs Canada March 22, 2007

New Zealand beat Canada by 114 runs in Group C of the World Cup at the Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia.

This match saw Brendon McCullum of New Zealand hit the fastest ever Cricket World Cup half century off just 20 balls. In reply, Canada achieved the highest total in their World Cup history.

Toss: Canada won, and elected to field first.

Fall of wickets (New Zealand): 1-142 (Fleming, 21.3 ov), 2-222 (Fulton, 35.2 ov), 3-253 (Styris, 38.5 ov), 4-266 (McMillan, 40.4 ov), 5-278 (Vincent, 42.6 ov)

Fall of wickets (Canada): 1-76 (Davison, 9.4 ov), 2-110 (Barnett, 20.4 ov), 3-188 (Bagai, 34.6 ov), 4-201 (Billcliff, 37.5 ov), 5-206 (Mulla, 38.6 ov), 6-207 (Samad, 39.2 ov), 6-226* (Dhaniram, retired not out), 7-245 (Bhatti, 47.4 ov), 8-249 (Sandher, 49.1 ov), 9-249 (Osinde, 49.2 ov)

New Zealand: S P Fleming (capt), L Vincent, S B Styris, P G Fulton, J D P Oram, C D McMillan, B B McCullum (wkt), D L Vettori, D R Tuffey, J S Patel, M J Mason

Canada: J M Davison (capt), G E F Barnett, A Bagai (wkt), I S Billcliff, A M Samad, A A Mulla, S Dhaniram, U Bhatti, A C Cummins, H Osinde, K T Sandher

Player of the match: L Vincent (New Zealand)

Umpires: Asad Rauf (Pakistan) and B R Doctrove (West Indies)

TV umpire: R E Koertzen (South Africa)

Match referee: M J Procter (South Africa)

Reserve umpire: P D Parker (Australia).

Full analysis of this match, and others, is available online at en.wikinews.org.

Ribena fined over misleading advertising March 27, 2007

The makers of blackcurrant-flavoured drink Ribena, GlaxoSmithKline, are in a New Zealand court today after it was discovered that the company's 55-year advertising campaign is misleading to consumers. Ribena had promoted the drink as being rich in vitamin C, with four times as much as oranges, and claimed the "Ready to Drink" Ribena had 7mg of vitamin C per 100ml. Tests have shown that "Ready to Drink" Ribena does not have any detectable vitamin C content.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), an international leading healthcare company second only to Pfizer, pleaded guilty to all 15 charges laid against them by New Zealand's Commerce Commission in Auckland's District Court. GSK did, however, fight the expected fine of up to \$350,000 and corrective advertisements, proposing instead a \$60,000 fine with no corrective advertisements. In the end, they were fined \$217,000 for their breaches of New Zealand's fair trading act, and will have to publish correcting advertisements.

It was first revealed that Ribena did not contain any traces of vitamin C when two 14-year-old Pakuranga College students did tests. At first Anna Devathasan and Jenny Suo thought they had conducted their tests incorrectly, so they tried again, but the same result came up. They contacted the firm three times, and approached the Commerce Commission after receiving no response.

Ms Devathasan said, "We did the study for a bit of fun."

A study in January 2007 also revealed that the drink contains only 5% actual blackcurrant juice.

Flaming debris nearly hits LAN airliner March 29, 2007

A LAN Airlines Airbus A340 was making its approach into Auckland when incandescent objects flew by at super-sonic speeds. Australian and New Zealand media initially reported that it was debris from a Russian satellite breaking up during re-entry. NASA said it was more likely to be meteors.

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand is set to investigate the incident.

2007 Cricket World Cup: West Indies vs New Zealand March 29, 2007

New Zealand beat the West Indies by 7 wickets (with 64 balls remaining) in the Super 8 phase in the World Cup at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

This was West Indies second game of the Super 8 stage, having already lost to Australia only yesterday. For New Zealand it was their first game in this stage, although they already had two points carried forward from their group stage victory over England.

Toss: New Zealand won, and elected to field first.

Fall of wickets (West Indies): 1-14 (Chanderpaul, 7.5 ov), 2-66 (Sarwan, 16.2 ov), 3-78 (Samuels, 20.3 ov), 4-81 (Gayle, 22.2 ov), 5-128 (Bravo, 33.1 ov), 6-150 (Lara, 36.3 ov), 7-158 (Ramdin, 41.3 ov), 8-176 (Smith, 43.3 ov), 9-176 (Powell, 43.4 ov), 10-177 (Collymore, 44.4 ov)

Fall of wickets (New Zealand): 1-0 (Fulton, 0.2 ov), 2-36 (Marshall, 8.3 ov), 3-77 (Fleming, 20.6 ov)

West Indies: C H Gayle, S Chanderpaul, R R Sarwan, M N Samuels, B C Lara (capt), D J Bravo, D R Smith, D Ramdin (wkt), L M P Simmons, D B Powell, C D Collymore

New Zealand: P G Fulton, S P Fleming (capt), H J H Marshall, S B Styris, C D McMillan, J D P Oram, B B McCullum (wkt), D L Vettori, J E C Franklin, S E Bond, M J Mason

Player of the match: J D P Oram (New Zealand)

Umpires: Asad Rauf (Pakistan) and R E Koertzen (South Africa)

TV umpire: Aleem Dar (Pakistan)

Match referee: M J Proctor (South Africa)

Reserve umpire: B F Bowden (New Zealand).

Full analysis of this match, and others, is available online at en.wikinews.org.

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