

Hunt for dinosaurs in Ureweras wins funds

A TWO-YEAR hunt for dinosaur remains in Urewera National Park has been given the go-ahead.

The project will be led by Ngai Tuhoe, with input from GNS Science and Victoria University of Wellington.

It is one of two projects to be given \$100,000 through the Government's Vision Mātauranga Capability Fund, which invests in programmes that help iwi development for the benefit of New Zealand.

New Zealand's first dinosaur fossils were uncovered by renowned self-trained palaeontologist Joan Wiffen in 1975, in the Mangahouanga Stream, near the Urewera National Park.

GNS Science says geologists and palaeontologists believe there are "more such fossils" to be found within Te Urewera.

During the two-year project, the three organisations will pursue a greater depth of knowledge of Earth science in Te Urewera.

Now managed by Tuhoe, the park is known to contain the same fossil-bearing rock that has yielded dinosaur fossils from nearby areas in the past.

Tuhoe-Te Uru Taumatua say they look forward to the creative and exploratory opportunities that

the project is likely to provide for their young people and communities.

In another successful project, GNS Science will work with Ngati Porou, Ngai Tamanuhiri, and Gisborne District Council to raise iwi awareness of, and resilience to, natural hazards within their rohe on the North Island's East Coast.

The project will take place in three phases. The first step will be a compilation of mātauranga Māori and scientific knowledge about natural hazards on the East Coast.

The second phase will see a team from GNS Science, Ngati Porou, and Ngai Tamanuhiri visit Indonesia to share indigenous knowledge and experiences of natural hazards.

In the third phase, knowledge gained from the earlier compilation and the Indonesian visit will be shared at iwi level through a series of hui, workshops, school teaching modules, and media engagement.

Project co-leader Mike Page, of GNS Science, said the purpose of the Indonesian visit was to heighten iwi awareness of natural hazards and their impact in a cultural context.

"This particularly refers to severe earthquakes, tsunami and volcanic eruptions."