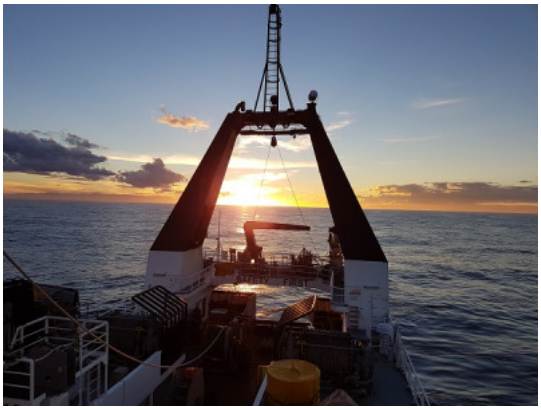
24 April 2017

Dear science enthusiasts,

I'm burning up here at the Syracuse Lava Project, a collaboration between artist Bob Wysocki and geologist Jeff Karson at Syracuse University. These fearless (and a little crazy) men work together to melt, mix and pour homemade lava for both artistic and scientific projects. Bob and Jeff were nice enough to host me and an AGU colleague for three days of pouring and filming lava. The lava - at over 1,000 degrees C - generated so much heat that we had to stop filming twice because the camera overheated. No one got burned (luckily!) and we got to see something few people (let alone scientists) ever get to see - real-life lava flows. In this image, you can see Bob clad in his leather protection gear, operating the furnace. For this pour, we made the lava extra hot and poured it over wet sand. You can see that as the lava flows over the sand, it has vaporized the water in the sand and that water vapor causes the lava to bubble up. Next, we'll be getting the lava even hotter and attempting to create a lava lake. Wish you were here, Lauren Lipuma AGU public information specialist

#postcards from the field, #submission



24 April 2017

Greetings from the R/V Tangaroa, offshore the South Island of New Zealand. At the moment we are deploying a Controlled-Source Electromagnetic instrument offshore the Canterbury Plains, which will allow us to measure sub-seafloor resistivity. Once the data are integrated with new multi-channel seismic reflection data that we plan to acquire next week, we will be able to characterize the distribution and geometry of one of the shallowest offshore freshwater aquifers in the world. We are 12 days out on a 24 day research cruise. In the following weeks we plan to ground-truth our geophysical data by acquiring seafloor pore-water and water column samples where the groundwater is seeping into the sea to determine its origin and age.

You can follow our cruise on: www.facebook.com/marinegeologyseafloorsurveying/ The cruise is supported by a European Research Council grant (MARCAN) and NIWA.

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