

# EARTHQUAKE TREMORS FELT IN VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 19 JUNE 2012

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 19 June 2012



If bush fires and floods were not bad enough to scare the daylight out of Victorians, an earthquake did just that on the 19 June 2012, Victoria experienced its greatest earthquake for a century.

It was the biggest earthquake to hit Victoria in more than a century. One is not sure whether it was felt by all Victorians and what damage it may have caused.

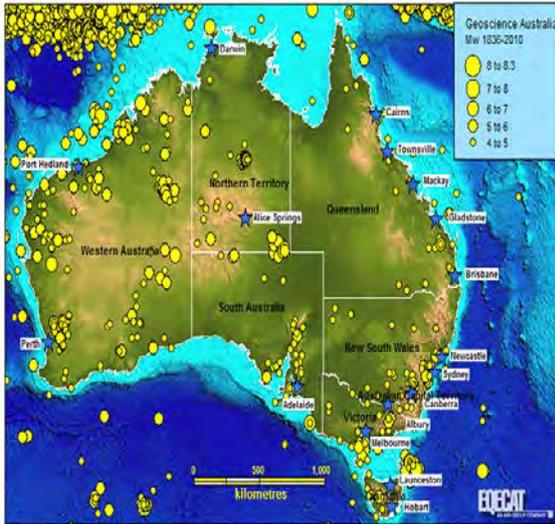
I one lived even near the edges of the earthquake they would have certainly felt the aftershocks. Tremors that stuck deep into the heart of Victoria from the bay well into its neighbour in the north, New south Wales. It struck suddenly and without warning moments before 9.55 pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time) for approximately 50 seconds.

My wife and I live in the leafy suburb of Watsonia, located in the North of Melbourne in dating back some 80 years were shaken by the tremor whilst watching a movie. I felt a tremor and the couch moved once. Thinking it was just the covering on the couch thought nothing of it until it happened again.

Listening whether it was the traffic outside, the tremor came again and this time the couch rumbled from one side to another. The word earthquake came to mind and my thoughts raced back to September 1972 whilst in the jungles of Papua New Guinea as a young soldier I had experienced a similar tremor.

I said to myself, no it could not be happening to us here in Victoria for we are on solid bedrock and we are not normally subjected to earthquakes of this type. What do we do? Panic was out of the question and wondered whether my wife was all right and if she had felt it. Still no need to worry for if something was to have happened it would have happened long before.

Survival instincts kicked in and considered the possibilities of safety and security as being the main priorities. A quick check of the home revealed no structural damage of any sort which was a relief. I then saw my wife had come down from her upstairs office and she asked me whether I had felt the tremors. I said so you think it was an earthquake, she said yes, she had experienced them before in Greece. She described her feelings saying that it was rather frightening being on the second floor, seeing and hearing objects move for some seconds.



She felt three tremor for some time and waited until they finished before coming down to see whether I had felt the tremors as well. Still not being convinced I rang my son in Campbellfield and asked if he had felt it.

He said no he had not experienced anything of the kind. I then rang the Greensborough Police and they confirmed that they had experienced an earthquake and that other calls had come in as well.

Ringing my other son and his fiancé, who confirmed that it was already on face book and that the earthquake was reported in Broadmeadows, Berwick, Reservoir and in Chadstone. Contacting my other two sons who were in the city enjoying themselves, they said they had not felt any tremors. I then contacted a friend in Ivanhoe whose son said that they had also felt it in their suburb.

A check on the internet indicated how quickly the earthquake had been reported as news and reported it on line. The Herald Sun in this case was very quick off the mark. Suffice to say the only other time I can truly recollect an earthquake was when I was in Papua New Guinea back in 1972. Reports of damage to property came soon after, keeping the insurance companies busy for a long period after that.

It is of interest to note the causes of earthquakes, and the following is a brief outline taken from internet sources:

According to Australian Petrologist Professor Bill Collins from the University of Newcastle: "Earthquakes in Australia can best described by first "considering the earth like an egg. "

"It has a shell and a soft interior. The shell is composed of rigid plates, tectonic plates, and in some places they move towards each other and in others they draw away from each other."

Where they push against each other, the energy from the convergence zone — where one plate is pulled under another — gets transferred into the plate interior.

If those plate surfaces have fractures or faults through them, scars from previous geological events, those weaknesses can be reactivated as that compression goes on, and an earthquake occurs.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2012/05/01/3492944.htm>



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