



Fiji earthquake of 9 Nov. 2009

This diagram, provided by Fred Taylor of the University of Texas-Austin, shows the location of the Fiji Islands, at lower right centre, where a magnitude 7.2 struck on 9 Nov. The small circles represent GPS monitoring stations that collect a steady stream of tectoseismic data in the Fiji-Tonga area, where spreading seafloor ridges of the earth's crust and a major subduction zone contribute to extremely complex tectonic motions. The Tonga trench (far lower right) is where the Pacific plate subducts westward beneath the Australian plate in the west.