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## Researchers chase the perfect wave

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Scientists armed with laser scanners and sensors are headed to Seven Mile Beach to learn more about how waves and beaches work together and change over time.

The University of Newcastle researchers will spend seven days camped at the northern end of Seven Mile Beach (13 – 19 June) with their high tech gear.

Dr Hannah Power said the team would be installing their instruments on the beach and in the water to measure waves in the surf zone.

“We’ll be using a laser scanner and pressure sensors to record wave parameters such as wave heights and periods as well as measuring current speeds,” Dr Power said.

“We’ll also be surveying the beach topography.”

“These data will be used to answer questions about how waves and sand interact and how sand moves around on beaches.”

Dr Power said Seven Mile Beach was an important site for coastal researchers, with scientists conducting surf zone experiments there since the early 1980's.

Kiama Council asks beach users to be aware of the presence of the team and their equipment when on the shore or in the water.

All instruments will be marked clearly with high visibility flags and reflectors.

Image: researchers assemble the current meter before deploying it in the water