



## Genomics Aotearoa news

Genomics Aotearoa Co-Director Peter Dearden has been in the news responding to the National Party's announcement on revisiting GM restrictions in New Zealand:

- [How we can realise the huge potential of genetic modification technology](#), Stuff, **June 16**
- [Genomics Aotearoa: Current genetic modification regulations too restrictive](#), Newstalk ZB with Kate Hawesby, **June 12**
- [Chief scientist: Govt's proposed changes to GMO rules 'sensible first step, NZ Herald](#), **June 27**

Ang McGaughran (University of Waikato), co-lead of the GA Invasomics project, has been talking about the role of genomics in New Zealand biosecurity:

- [New Zealand needs to up its biosecurity game to protect the country from the next devastating pest threat](#), Yahoo News, **June 8**
  - [New Zealand needs to up its biosecurity game to protect the country from the next devastating pest threat](#), The Conversation, **June 8**
  - [New Zealand Must Improve Biosecurity to Avoid Pest Threats | Mirage News](#), Mirage News, **June 8**
- 

## Genomics outreach

### DNA and genomics workshop for school teachers

Genomics Aotearoa, in conjunction with Pūtahi Manawa (Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand - HHANZ), is running a DNA and genomics workshop for primary and secondary school teachers on **July 10**, at the University of Auckland. The programme includes talks from Mike Bunce (Chief Science Advisor for the Department of Conservation), genomic researchers, STEM academy organisation representatives and teachers already conducting environmental DNA sampling experiments with primary and secondary school students. For further details and/or if you wish to register, please contact [Thierry Lints](#).

On Friday **July 28** Dr Lints will be running two workshop sessions on classroom genomics at the Canterbury Science Teachers Association (CSTA) annual Science Leadership Day, to be held at The University of Canterbury. The meeting brings together teachers with leadership roles in science (from all year levels) and the sessions will cover DNA life science pedagogy suitable for primary and secondary students.

---

# Genomics research

## Published paper:

[Exploring the depth and breadth of the genomics toolbox during the COVID-19 pandemic: insights from Aotearoa New Zealand](#) by Michael Bunce, Jemma L. Geoghegan, David Winter, Joep de Ligt & Siouxsie Wiles, published in BMC Med 21, 213 (June 14, 2023).

---

## Genomics Aotearoa Seminar Series

Thank you to recent seminar presenters:

- **Shannon Clarke** (AgResearch), talking about *Genomic Solutions: underpinning, implementation and impact*.  
<https://youtu.be/uY4aXXig9Xw>
- **Santiago C. González-Martínez** (INRAE Bordeaux, France), *Using genomics to assess (mal) adaptation to climate change in forest trees*.  
[https://youtu.be/Q46\\_AwD0mhM](https://youtu.be/Q46_AwD0mhM)
- **Thomas Buckley** (Manaaki Whenua Landcare), *Using genomics to understand the evolution of New Zealand terrestrial invertebrates*.

Next up on July 7 we will hear from **Karen Miga** (University of California Santa Cruz). This will be on-line, and in-person at the University of Otago St David Complex Seminar Room (C G.03).

And on July 21 **Jan Charbonneau** (University of Tasmania) and **Andelka Philips** (University of Queensland) will address *Views of the Australian and New Zealand general public concerning genetic privacy*.

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/97097442106?>

Please [let us know](#) if you know of a potential presenter for future seminars.

---

## Advanced genome assembly workshop, July 4-6, 2023

Genomics Aotearoa, in collaboration with New Zealand eScience Infrastructure, is excited to be piloting an advanced workshop on human genome assembly using long-read sequencing platforms.

This in-person workshop at the University of Otago will be led by members of the Human Pangenome Reference Consortium (HPRC): Ann McCartney, Assistant Researcher, University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) Genomics Institute and Julian Lucas, Senior Bioinformatics Systems Analyst, UCSC Genomics Institute. The focus is read handling, assembly generation, evaluation and curation. The workshop's scope also includes comparisons between sequence platforms and popular long-read assemblers, examples of good and bad assemblies, and approaches to assembly phasing.

Registrations have closed but contact [Tyler McInnes](#) if you want to know more.

---

## Metagenomics Summer School 2023

The Environmental Microbiomes team at Genomics Aotearoa is hosting the annual Metagenomics Summer School once more at the University of Auckland, City Campus, **September 5-8, 2023**.

This practical, hands-on in-person workshop focuses on prokaryotic

metagenomics. It aims to guide learners through the process of analysing metagenomic sequence data, from metagenomic read sequences to curated metagenome-assembled genomes paired with downstream data analyses and visualisation in R. It also includes the following lessons:

- Introduction to Bash shell and scripting (pre-workshop session)
- Pragmatic considerations during experiment/sampling planning and decision-making (e.g., how much sequence data do I need? What are the approaches to analysing the data I have?)
- Best practices in handling and processing metagenomic data
- Viral genome prediction from metagenomic assemblies

We invite learners of all bioinformatics skill levels to register their interest [here](#). Contact [Jian Sheng Boey](#) for more information.

---

## Upcoming bioinformatics training

### Imputation workshop at LIC Hamilton, July 7, 9am-5pm

This in-person workshop is jointly hosted by LIC, Genomics Aotearoa and NeSI. It is for New Zealand scientists and will explore genotype imputation techniques. This workshop is intended for anyone interested in learning how to use either Beagle or Minimac to impute genotypes and how to evaluate the imputation performance of these methods. **Sign up to the workshop at [Eventbrite](#)**

### Intermediate Shell for Bioinformatics workshop, online July 18, 10am-4pm

This workshop is hosted by Genomics Aotearoa and NeSI, and is for New Zealand researchers interested in progressing their abilities with Shell.

**Register for this workshop at [Eventbrite](#)**

### **Outlier Analysis workshop, August 9-10, 10am-4pm**

This in-person workshop is delivered by Genomics Aotearoa and NeSI. It is for New Zealand researchers interested in signals of selection in genomes. The focus of this workshop is on identifying signals of selection in an example genome using the outlier analysis method. **Sign up to this workshop at [Eventbrite](#).**

Let [Tyler McInnes](#) know if you have bioinformatics training needs or would like more information. You can also visit the [training page](#) on our website for details on upcoming workshops.

---

## **Queenstown Research Week**

Register now for Queenstown Research Week, **August 27 to September 1** - link [here](#) to register, or see the QRW [website](#) for more information.

Genomics Aotearoa is sponsoring the Genomics Satellite and the BioProtection Satellite:

- [Genomics Satellite](#) **August 27-28**. Keynote speakers for this Satellite are Arang Rhie (NIH) and Professor Alex Brown (Theme Leader, Aboriginal Research Unit, Adelaide Medical School).
  - [BioProtection Satellite](#) **August 31-September 1**. GA researchers may be particularly interested in the panel discussion on August 31, dealing with the concept and application of indigenous methodologies, intellectual property and data sovereignty in research.
-

## Save the date

### MapNet 2023

The annual MapNet conference is on November 22-24, 2023. A joint session with Genomics Aotearoa's Annual Meeting (**Nov 20-22**) will start the event on Wednesday afternoon (November 22), followed by two days of presentations at AgResearch's Invermay campus near Dunedin on Thursday and Friday.

### eResearch NZ 2024 coming to Wellington February 7-9, 2024

Celebrating its 15th year, the eResearch NZ conference series is coming to Wellington, NZ on **February 7-9 2024**. Co-hosted by [NeSI](#), [REANNZ](#), and Genomics Aotearoa, eResearch NZ is the premier national gathering for communities exploring or innovating the ways digital tools and techniques can be used to advance research outcomes.

A conference website is coming soon, along with abstract submission and registration details. For now, please bookmark February 7-9 2024 in your calendar and share this save-the-date note across your networks.

---

## New to our website



### Introducing Genomics Aotearoa post doc Rebecca Clarke

Providing energy-rich protein to the world while reducing the environmental impact is one of the largest challenges facing the animal industry today - read what Genomics Aotearoa and AgResearch are doing [here](#).

---

## Genomics events

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>July 16-21</b>    | <a href="#">23rd Congress of Genetics</a> , Melbourne                              |
| <b>Aug 27-Sept 1</b> | <a href="#">Queenstown Research Week</a> , Queenstown                              |
| <b>Sept 18-19</b>    | <a href="#">New Zealand Research Software Engineering Conference 2023</a> , online |
| <b>Nov 20-22</b>     | Genomics Aotearoa Annual Meeting, Dunedin  |
| <b>Nov 22-24</b>     | MapNet, Dunedin  |
| <b>Nov 20-23</b>     | <a href="#">NZ Microbiological Society Conference</a> , Auckland                   |
| <b>Feb 7-9, 2024</b> | eResearchNZ 2024 conference  |

Let us know if you would like to add an event.

---

## Genomics Aotearoa YouTube Channel



[Genomics Aotearoa YouTube Channel](#)

We are sharing the Asia-Pacific Genetics Seminar Series on our You-Tube channel – see Lisa Matisoo-Smith talking about the [Last Great Human Migration](#) (**September 21, 2022**). The Asia-Pacific Genetics Seminar Series is a collaboration between the Genetics Society of Japan (GSJ) and the Genetics Society of Australasia (GSA). It aims to further develop the field of genetics and promote international exchange among researchers in Asia and Oceania.

We welcome suggestions for linking to content that our community would find useful - please email [Jess McLean](#).



---

# Contact Genomics Aotearoa

**Main:** [Genomics Aotearoa](#)

**Co-Director:** [Prof Peter Dearden](#) - 021 176 1680

**Co-Director:** [Mik Black](#) - 027 404 6680

**Operations Manager:** [Jayashree Panjabi](#) - 021 279 1160

**Communications Manager:** [Claire Grant](#) - 027 489 4471

**Communications Consultant:** [Monica Gruber](#) - 022 013 7862

**Advisor – Communications:** [Jess McLean](#) - 027 365 8434

**Training Coordinator:** [Dr Tyler McInnes](#) - 027 391 8815

**Vision Mātauranga Manager:** [Tracey Godfery](#) - 027 458 9216



Website



Email



Twitter



GitHub



YouTube



LinkedIn



Slack

Want to change how you receive these emails?

If you are [claire.grant@otago.ac.nz](mailto:claire.grant@otago.ac.nz) you can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe here](#).

If you are not [claire.grant@otago.ac.nz](mailto:claire.grant@otago.ac.nz) then this message has been forwarded to you.

If you would like to subscribe to our mailing list, you can do so at [our website](#).

If you do not want to receive our emails, please contact the person who forwarded the email to you.

*Copyright © 2023 Genomics Aotearoa, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

Genomics Aotearoa

Suite 1 Biochemistry Bldg

710 Cumberland Street, North Dunedin

Dunedin, Otago 9016

New Zealand

[Add us to your address book](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**