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## Genomics Aotearoa outreach

### The genetic secrets of the velvet worm

Listen to Peter Dearden talk to Kim Hill, [Radio New Zealand Saturday Morning](#), about *Peripatus* (aka velvet worms or ngāokeoke) - an ancient and fascinating native nocturnal crawling creature.

### Event: All the small things



Tūhura Otago Museum and Genomics Aotearoa hosted a well-attended talk and science showcase event last month that included presentations from Joep de Ligt and Jemma Geoghegan, Neil Gemmell, and Charlotte King, and a band (Bo & the Constrictors).

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## eResearch NZ 2023 conference

The eResearch NZ conference, jointly organised by Genomics Aotearoa, NeSI and REANNZ, was this year hosted at the University of Waikato.

For many attendees, it was the first time in two years that they had seen some of their eResearch community colleagues in person; it was wonderful to hear about the breadth of work that is going on within Aotearoa New Zealand and Australian research organisations.

Braving the recent disruption of Cyclone Gabrielle, researchers from the length of the country gathered together in-person or joined online to discuss the themes of Capability, Connectivity and Equity. Keynote speakers Dr Warren Williams and Professor Wyeth Wasserman shared experiences and expertise on forming mutual, trust-based connections with indigenous communities here and abroad, with these ideas (and many others) explored in more depth in a number of well-attended discussion sessions.

Conference attendees were also able to take part in Carpentry Connect, an opportunity for internationally recognised instructors in the fields of Software Carpentry, Data Carpentry and Library Carpentry skills (collectively called “The Carpentries”) to discuss the future of digital skills education in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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## Post Doc workshop



Genomics Aotearoa postdocs and associates met in Auckland on March 16 and 17 for an annual training and networking event. Guest speakers Mike Bunce, Julie Everett-Hincks, Anna Santure and Libby Liggins shared the diverse, exciting, and sometimes challenging, career paths they experienced to get to where they are today.

Tracey Godfery delivered half-day sessions focused on engagement at the interface of science and Te Ao Māori, with a particular focus on the importance of relationship building with mana whenua communities. Tracey noted that it was heartening to see the commitment and goodwill of post-doctoral participants toward better engagement with hapori Māori.

Jayashree Panjabi led half-day media training sessions at the Auckland University Shortland Street studios, where post-docs were interviewed about their research and impact. Sessions were recorded and then played back with critiques by an experienced news producer who has trained the likes of Jacinda Ardern!

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## Congratulations to Ann McCartney

Ann McCartney, a research scientist at the UC Santa Cruz Genomics Institute, has received the National Human Genome Research Institute's (NHGRI) inaugural Staff Award for DEIA Innovation in the Genomics Workforce. Read the full story [here](#)

Ann worked as a postdoctoral fellow for Genomics Aotearoa's High Quality Genomes programme, where she created bioinformatics pipelines to make reference genomes for endemic and endangered species.

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## Genomics Aotearoa Seminar Series

The 2023 Genomics Aotearoa seminar series has started strong, the lineup so far including several international researchers:

- **Peter Gogarten**, Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Connecticut, who talked about *Inteins as a tool to trace the transfer of genetic information*.
- **Imogen Foote** (Victoria University of Wellington) presented on *A whole-genome approach to resolve the genetic structure of Antipodean and Gibson's albatross populations*.
- **Professor Zhongchi Liu** (Maryland University) was in New Zealand, and talked to us about *Wild strawberries as a model to investigate regulatory mechanisms of strawberry reproduction*.
- **Patrick Sullivan MD, FRANZCP** is a Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Genetics and Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and Professor at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. His talk was on *Lessons for conservation biology and human genetics from Zoonomia (alignment of 241 Eutherian mammals)*.

Up next is Dr Michael Hoggard (University of Auckland) on **April 14**, talking on *Environmental viruses and their influence on the microbial dynamics of aquatic ecosystems*.

Contact us directly if you'd like to view Zhongchi's talk. Other seminars will be

uploaded to YouTube shortly.

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

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## Genomics Aotearoa bioinformatics training for April

**Thursday, April 13:** Introduction to Bash Scripting and HPC job scheduler.

This online workshop is delivered by Genomics Aotearoa and NeSI, and is for New Zealand researchers interested in learning to write scripts and submit jobs to an HPC using a scheduler. This workshop is an excellent follow-up for everyone who has recently completed the Introduction to R and Introduction to Bash workshops, although these are not strictly prerequisites. You are expected to have some knowledge of basic terminal commands. This workshop will introduce:

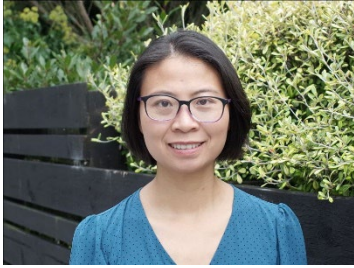
- Designing a variant calling workflow.
- Automating a workflow.
- An introduction to HPC.
- Working with job scheduler.

[Register for 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.

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## New to our website



### **Introducing Zoe Yang**

Genomics Aotearoa is funding a Pangenome Graphs research project to come up with methods for improved variant detection in New Zealand. Post Doctoral researcher Zoe Yang, based at ESR Wellington, is a key part of the project - read more [here](#).

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## **Genomics events**

**July 16-21, 2023:**      [23rd Congress of Genetics](#)

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

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## **Genomics Aotearoa YouTube Channel**



[Genomics Aotearoa YouTube Channel](#)

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

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