



Computer Science Association of New Zealand  
<http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/csanz>

# Newsletter

20 May 2013  
Number 22

## NZCSRSC 2013

The 11th NZ Computer Science Research Student Conference (NZCSRSC 2013) was held at the University of Waikato, 15-19 April. There were 50 attendees from NZ universities.

New to the NZCSRSC this year were prizes for best paper (\$1,500), best presentation (\$500) and best poster (\$500). Prize money was provided by Google, and judging was performed by the NZCSRSC steering committee: **Ian Witten**, **Tim Bell**, and **Robert Amor**. The prizes are to be used for travel or other research-related expenses for the winners.

Best Paper: **Syed Saud Naqvi**, *Optimizing Bio-Inspired Visual Attention Model* (Victoria).

Best Presentation: **Mumraiz Khan Kasi**, *Semantic Event for Energy Efficient Wireless Sensor Networks* (Waikato).

Best Poster: **Cameron Mclean**, *A Pattern Language for Sharing Laboratory Science Practice* (Auckland)

**Craig Nevill-Manning** of Google delivered the opening address, "Engineering Creativity in Silicon Valley, New York, and New Zealand". He discussed Silicon Valley, the New York tech hub, and outlined a plan that could foster similar growth of tech centres in NZ. **Andrew Scothern** from Gallagher presented the second keynote. He related a fascinating story of the evolution of software development processes at Gallagher over a five-year period.

**Alyona Medelyan**, a Waikato PhD alumnus and former NZCSRSC organizer, gave the third keynote address, which showed results of a recent survey of former NZ CS PhD students. This should be of interest to all CS staff and students: her slides are available at the CSANZ website and she kindly re-recorded her talk and put it up at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01kmqLMdjj0>.

The first of two panels were held immediately following the opening keynote. The topic for discussion was "What can you do with a PhD in industry." The panel members were **John Cleary** (Realtime Genomics), **Rob Heebink** (Gallagher), **Craig Taube-Schock** (University of Waikato) and **Craig Nevill-Manning**. The second panel consisted of Waikato faculty members **Geoff Holmes** (Dean of the Faculty of Computing & Mathematical Sciences), **David Bainbridge** (Associate Professor), **Annika Hinze** (Senior Lecturer), **Doris Jung** (Research Fellow), and **Keith Soo** (Lecturer). The topic was "What can I expect from an academic career?" There were also six workshops to choose from: "The Publication Game" (**Ian Witten**); Time Management" (**Tim Bell**); "How to be a fantastic paper reviewer" (**Annika Hinze**); "Doing and communicating research is changing" (**Andrea Schweer**); "From PhD student to academic" (**Judy Bowen**) and "The Oral Examination" (**Te Taka Keegan**).

An Industry Night was held at Waikato Innovation Park. Each sponsor made a brief presentation, after which attendees

mingled. We are grateful for the support of the conference's sponsors: Gallagher, Pingar, Compaq, Google, Catalyst IT, Fishpond, Realtime Genomics and Serrato.

The purpose of NZCSRSC, to promote networking and interaction between participants, faculty, and industry, was amply fulfilled by this year's Conference, and we are happy to have been able to bring everyone together in a friendly and collegial environment. We look forward to the next one!

**Craig Taube-Schock**

On behalf of the NZCSRSC 2013 organizing committee.

Website: [www.2013.nzcsrsc.ac.nz](http://www.2013.nzcsrsc.ac.nz)

This year NZCSRSC returned to Waikato 21 years after its inception there, and I warmly congratulate **Michael Rinke**, **Craig Taube-Schock**, and their team for a great job of organising it. The presentations were excellent – it is often remarked that the standard of presentation, and questioning, at NZCSRSC outshines that of major international conferences. This year the keynote talks were outstanding, I found the panels unusually interesting, and the "Industry Night" was fascinating. For instance, do you know what NZ software is used by leading international DJs? Or what industry here is working with unmanned drones? I do – now.

Note: an NZCSRSC presentation does not preclude the same paper being submitted elsewhere. The proceedings are not published, either on the web or on paper. Attendees receive everything on a memory stick, and papers typically include this rubric: *This paper is intended for private use only. It is intended to be distributed only to delegates of NZCSRSC'13; under no circumstances should it be further distributed in any way without explicit permission from the author(s).* This is a conference that you can't read about afterwards: you have to be there!

We are hoping that NZCSRSC'14 will be held at the University of Canterbury.

**Ian H. Witten**

## NCEA and Computer Science

In 2013 the new Programming and Computer Science standards rolled out for level 3 (year 13), which means that we will start to see better-prepared students arriving at universities in 2014. Computer Science HODs have been discussing how to encourage students in CS at school, and departments are preparing for the new cohort. Google have once again awarded a grant for Canterbury and Victoria to run the third CS4HS (Computer Science for High Schools) event, which will be a three-day event in December to help teachers prepare to teach CS in our high schools. This year it will be a time for consolidation, as many schools will have had three years' experience teaching the new standards, while others will be waiting to learn from their experience!

**Tim Bell**

## Otago CS

### News

The Department is running “Learn to Program” courses for school children aged 9-15 (school years 5-10). These use Lego NXT robots and are held in our own Owheo building. Classes are run by senior CS students under the supervision of Professional Practice Fellow **Sandy Garner**.

### Appointments

**Michael Albert** became Head of Department in January. **Anthony Robins** and **Michael Albert** have been promoted to full Professorships. Michael's inaugural Professorial lecture was given on 16 April.

### Awards

Computer Science Honours students **Nicky Crawford** and **Caitlin Miller** were undergraduate finalists for the 2012 Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship. Last November **Caitlin** also won a Google internship.

### Seminars

**Angrosh Mandya**, Department of Information Science  
*Enhancing Citation Context based Information Services through Sentence Context Identification*

**Derick Weis**, Monash University  
*Computer-Aided Molecular Design of Ionic Liquids: Prediction of Melting Point*

**Rafal Rzepka**, Hokkaido University  
*Toward a Moral Judgement Algorithm Based on the Experiences of a Crowd*

**Mark Klein**, MIT Sloan School of Management  
*Protocols for Complex Negotiation*

**Cristina Botella**, Department of Basic and Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, University Jaume I, Spain  
*The Concept and the Measure of Presence in Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality Environments*

**David Eyers**, Department of Computer Science  
*Security within Cloud Computing: Initial research trajectories*

### Visitors

**Martin Takac**, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. December. Visited **Ali Knott** and **Lubica Benuskova** to work on neural network models of sensorimotor cognition and natural language syntax.

Robert Pollock

## Victoria

### News

**Paul Teal**, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering and

Computer Science, is part of an international research team that has won an award from the European Commission that under the Framework Programme for Research.

### Scholarships

Victoria PhD / Doctoral Scholarships

**David Harrison**  
**Isidro Alvarez**  
**Daniel Akinyele**  
**Evgeny Patrikeev**  
**Summera Nosheen**

### Appointments

**J.P. Lewis** joined as an Associate Professor. Prior to April 2013 he was also a research lead at Weta Digital. His research interests include computer vision and machine learning for computer graphics, character animation, and aesthetics and perceptual research in graphics.

**David Streader** joined as senior lecturer in software engineering. David's research interests are centred around helping software engineers make better use of formal mathematical techniques as the discipline matures.

**Ciaran Moore** came as lecturer in electronics and computer systems engineering. His research interests include Nanophotonics, particularly the near-field effects, sub-wavelength resolution and the plasmonic interactions of metals.

**Aaron Chen** joined as senior lecturer in network engineering. His research interests include various aspects of distributed systems, including multi-agent systems and peer-to-peer overlay networks.

### Awards

PhD Student **Masood Mansoori** was awarded best student paper at the Australasian Information Security Conference held in Adelaide in January on how to scan networks in order to allow the automated creation of a network of “honeypots”.

### Seminars

**John Lewis**, Victoria University of Wellington  
*Non-Parametric Shape and Motion Synthesis for Computer Animation*

**Vivek Sakar**, Rice University  
*Improved Programmability and Performance with Structured Parallelism*

**Tulay Adali**, University of Maryland Baltimore County  
*ICA and IVA: Theory, Connections, and Applications*

**Paley Li**, Victoria University of Wellington  
*Sheep Cloning with Ownership Types*

**Fred Baker**, Cisco  
*Buffer Bloat!*

**George Allan**, Victoria University of Wellington  
*Improving Student Engagement*

**Ken Anjyo**, OLM Digital

*Techniques for Art-Directed Animation*

**Simon Spacey**, University of Waikato

*OpenPAT: Analysing Programs the Easy Way*

**David Wilson**, AUT

*Rapid Proto-Typing with MATLAB: Getting Fast Results with Minimal Coding*

**Wenyu Jin**, Victoria University of Wellington

*Spatial Multizone Soundfield Reproduction Design*

**Neal Glew**, Intel Labs

*Relaxed Memory Models*

**Soha Ahmed**, Victoria University of Wellington

*Genetic Programming for Mass Spectrometry Data Analysis*

**Jason McEwen**, University College, London

*Radio Interferometric Imaging with Compressive Sensing*

**Fatih Ustok**

*Interference Alignment with Imperfect Channel State Information*

**Jeff Patton** Comakers LLC

*What I Wish Universities Taught about Software Development*

**Dino Ienco**, Irstea Institute, Montpellier

*Mining Moving Objects: Challenges and Directions*

**Neil Dodgson**, University of Cambridge

*Mind-Reading Machines: Inferring Mental State from Facial Expression*

**Philip Yu**, University of Illinois

*On Mining Big Data*

**Chengqi Zhang**, University of Technology, Sydney

*Research Centre Development and Experience*

**Daniel Hafiz Abdullah**

*Secure Data Aggregation for Smart Metering Networks*

**Jonathan Scott**, University of Waikato

*Threshold Concept Theory: Things Every Teacher and Course Designer should know*

**Normalia Samian**, Victoria University of Wellington

*Quantifying Cooperative Effort in Wireless Multihop Networks*

## PhD Theses

**Stephen Nelson**—*Profiling Initialisation Behaviour in Java*

**David Friggens**—*On the Use of Model Checking for the Bounded and Unbounded Verification of Nonblocking Concurrent Data Structures*

**Madhi Setayeshbarhaghi**—*Particle Swarm Optimisation for Edge Detection in Noisy Images*

## MSc Theses

**Aun Iqbal**—*Development of OSIX – A Peering point in a Box*

**Buddika Talwatta**—*The Implementation of a hierarchical navigation system for a mobile robotic vehicle*

**Wei-Chuan Lin**—*Exploiting Radio Irregularity in*

*Wireless Networks for Automated People Counting*

**Hugh Davenport**—*Implementation and Evaluation of*

*Security Protocols in E-Commerce Applications*

**Dayna-Maree Kivell**—*Microstructural Control of ZnO*

*Films Deposited by RF Magnetron Sputtering for Ultrasound Transducers*

**Abigail Rajendran**—*Determining the viability of the use*

*of magneto-rheological fluid in a low cost stroke rehabilitation device*

Amanda Holdaway

## Canterbury

### News

#### Computer Science Club

The computer science club for Year 7–10 school students we piloted last year has expanded into four clubs. Students learn programming, but there is also a focus on broader CS topics and a badge system to recognize achievements, with an emphasis on communication skills to encourage them to have a broader background. This helps make the club scalable, as experienced students mentor new ones. We are documenting the club so that others can run their own versions.

More info: <http://www.cosc.canterbury.ac.nz/csclub/>

#### Software Engineering

In December Canterbury's new B.Eng. in Software Engineering degree was approved, and this year students have been able to enrol in the degree.

### Appointment

**Matthias Galster** joined the Department as a Lecturer in January. He is from the Software Engineering and Architecture group at the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and his research is in Software Engineering.

### Visitors

**Helena Szczerbicka**, University of Hanover, Germany, is currently visiting on an Erskine fellowship.

**Yongbai Lee**, Korea, is working with **Tim Bell** and his CS Education research group.

### Awards

**Andy Cockburn** was awarded the College of Engineering Research Award.

**Tim Bell** received the ABZ "Ehrenmedaille" (medal of honour) from ETH University in Switzerland for his "fundamental contribution to computer science education" through the Computer Science Unplugged project (joint with **Mike Fellows** and **Ian Witten**). The presentation was part of the Swiss Day for teaching informatics.

More info: <http://www.abz.inf.ethz.ch/abz-ehrungen>



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PhD student **Philip Buchanan** received the Best Poster award at the Image and Vision Conference NZ 2012 held at Dunedin in November.

Computer Science PhD student **Stephen Fitchett** will receive a Best Paper Award and **Joey Scarr** an Honourable Mention award at CHI 2013 in Paris in May.

## PhD Thesis

**Moffat Mathews**—*Multiple adaptable pedagogical strategies in intelligent Tutoring Systems*

Gillian Clinton

## Waikato

### News

#### Code Camp helps train a new batch of Code Avengers

About 48 Year 9 and 10 students learnt computer programming basics at the three-day Code Camp 2012, run at University of Waikato by Computer Science PhD student **Michael Walmsley**.

More info: [www.codeavengers.com](http://www.codeavengers.com)

#### Road safety bear gets phone app

Ruben the Road Safety Bear now has his own Android phone app, thanks to work by a group of CS students. **Jamie Killen, Lifu Sun, Nigel, Pirikahu, Ashish Mathi** and **Wanying Yang** produced a set of simple Android-based games for kids. They are now available from the Google Playstore.

#### Students create app to print photos from your phone

Another group of senior CS students has developed a phone-based photo printing app for the US pharmacy chain Walgreens, thanks to support from MEA Mobile, one of New Zealand's top mobile application developers.

#### Flax Language Learning – Chinese and English videos

A series of videos in Chinese and English has been launched on YouTube and the Chinese video-hosting service Youku as part of the innovative FLAX language learning tool being developed by the Digital Libraries group at the University of Waikato.

More info: Youtube channel called FLAXLanguageLearning  
[http://www.youku.com/playlist\\_show/id\\_18115224.html](http://www.youku.com/playlist_show/id_18115224.html)

**Pre-release versions of OpenPAT** version 3 were released on [www.OpenPAT.org](http://www.OpenPAT.org) in April and have already been downloaded around the globe. Further releases are expected soon.

### Appointments

**Bernhard Pfahringer** was appointed Chair of Department from January.

**Ryan Ko** joined the Computer Science Department in December as a Senior Lecturer.

**Tomás Garcia Ferrari** joined the Computer Graphics Design staff in November as a Senior Lecturer.

**Simon Spacey** joined the Computer Science Department in November as a Senior Lecturer.

### Grants

The IT4SE (IT for Smart Energy Generation and Use) project has gained funding for a second two-year term from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). During the first two years we hosted Masters and PhD students from the University of Augsburg. We also hosted a number of workshops at Waikato and Germany.

### Awards

**Steve Reeves** has joined the editorial board for Innovations in Systems and Software Engineering: A NASA Journal.

**Mark Apperley** received the John Hughes Distinguished Service Award, presented biennially by the Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia (CORE), at the ASCW conference in Adelaide in February.

### Seminars

**Sam Sarjant**, Research Fellow, UoW.

*Policy Search Based Relational Reinforcement Learning using the Cross-Entropy Method*

**Sahar Mohajerani**, Chalmers University, Sweden.

*On Compositional Supervisor Synthesis for Discrete Event Systems*

**Helen Lynch**, UoW Library.

*What is an ORCID and why should I get one?*

**David Pearce**, Victoria University, Wellington.

*The Whiley Programming Language: Design & Implementation*

**Gian Perrone**, PhD, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

*Biographical reactive systems for domain-specific modelling languages*

**Dino Uenco**, Irstea Institute, Montpellier

*Mining Moving Objects: Challenges and Directions*

**Simon Spacey**, University of Waikato.

*OpenPAT: Analysing Programs the Easy Way*

**Carlos Soares**, University do Porto, Portugal.

*Predicting the rankings of financial analysts: an application of label ranking methods*

**Michail Vlachos**, IBM Research Zurich.

*How difficult is a foreign-language document?*

**Alyona Medelyan**, Pingar, Auckland.

*A research-driven start-up: A story by an ex-Waikato PhD student*



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## Visitors

**Jennifer Whisler**, Fulbright Scholar from US, is working with the Greenstone and FLAX projects in the Digital Library Lab from March-December.

**Carlos Soares**, University of Porto. February.

**Dino Ienco**, University of Montpellier. February-April.

**Michail Vlachos**, IBM Research Zurich. December.

**Xipeng Qiu**, Fudan University, China. November.

## PhD Theses

**Azmi bin Mohd Yusof**—*Supporting focus and context awareness in 3D Modeling using multi-layered displays*

**Edmond Yiwen Zhang**—*Improving bag of words model for object categorization*

## MSc Thesis

**Chris Deaker**—*Adaptive interfaces for massively multiplayer online games*

## Massey

### News

The IT group at the Albany campus has joined the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology and is now part of the CSIT cluster within the school.

### Appointments

**Henning Koehler** has joined the CSIT cluster.

**Ruili Wang** has moved from Palmerston North to Albany to join the IT group there.

Two new staff members, **Arno Leist** and **Teo Susnjak**, have joined the IT group at Albany, while **Henning Koehler** has joined the CSIT cluster in Palmerston North.

### Visitors

**Manfred Meyer**, Westfälische Hochschule, University of Applied Sciences in Bocholt, visited during January–February. He contributed to a student project and started collaboration with **Jens Dietrich**.

**Tom Gallagher**, visiting from the Department of Applied Computing & Electronics at the University of Montana in Missoula, has started research collaborations with staff from SEAT and the Health Informatics group in the College of Business. He is also teaching part of one of our papers while at Massey.

### PhD Thesis

**Graham Jensen**—*A study of software component system evolution*

Hans Guesgen

## Lincoln

### News

Lincoln is proposing a hefty institutional Qualifications Reform. The implications are yet to be fully realised, or CUAP approved, but the effects on the Department of Applied Computing are doubtlessly substantial. Gone will be the B Software & IT and related qualifications. Discussions between faculties and the Department are ongoing regarding IT majors in the few remaining focussed degrees. The University aims to implement reforms from 2014.

**Mohammad Daradkeh** presented a paper “Supporting Informed Decision-Making under Uncertainty and Risk through Interactive Visualisation” at the Australasian User Interface Conference 2013 in Adelaide. Co-authored with **Clare Churcher** and **Alan McKinnon**, the paper is published in *Australian Computer Science Communications*, Vol 35(5), pp. 23-32.

### Scholarship

**Mark Churcher** was awarded a Summer Scholarship from NZ Agriseeds and worked to develop a seed counting solution using image processing techniques. Mark was supervised by **Keith Unsworth** and **Stuart Charters**.

### Internship

**Arnaud Chen-Yen-Su** will join the Department as an intern from the end of May 2013. Arnaud is a student on Reunion Island and will be working on a project with our RoboTable and a Raspberry Pi, with **Keith Unsworth** and **Stuart Charters**.

### PhD Theses

**Yanbo Deng**—*Designing a framework for end user applications*

**Nassiriah Shaari**—*Customisation of Web Content for Desktop and Mobile Devices*

### MS & IT Thesis

**Leshi Chen**—*Supporting distributed multiplayer Robotable games*

Sharon Long

## Auckland

### News

Student numbers are up again this year with 12% growth overall. There is ongoing development of the new Masters of Professional Studies programme with a launch planned in 2014 of Digital Security, and Computational Cognitive

Systems. We are introducing a new accelerated pathway course for those doing NCEA Level Three in the new computing and programming achievement standards. A review was held on, and changes made to, the PhD provisional year assessment within the Department. A new student computing club has been established—CS@AU. Our Timeline Corridor (display) has been demolished but a replacement location has been identified in the renovated building.

## Successes

**Patrice Delmas** has signed a contract between the IVS lab and the Special Military School of Saint-Cyr St Syr-Coetquidan to supply an embedded real-time 3D vision system for outdoor scene representation.

**Giovanni Russello** has been selected for SAVVY, a 2-day training session in media and communication skills for scientists.

**Beryl Plimmer's** student **Paul Schmieder** has been awarded a Microsoft Research Beijing internship.

**Jim Goodman** won the ASPLOS (Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems) 2013 Most Influential Paper Award for “Transactional lock-free execution of lock-based programs”.

## Appointments

We welcome **Emily Chen**, **Flavio Pileggi** and **Bok Suk Shin** as postdoctoral fellows.

## Events and Seminars

PhD candidate **Jinglin Zhang**, INSA Rennes  
*Implementation of Stereo Matching Using A High Level Compiler for Parallel Computing Acceleration*

**Henri Prade**, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse (IRIT), France

*From (ana)logical proportions to IQ tests*

**Manuel Ujaldon**, Nvidia CUDA Fellow  
*Programming GPUs with CUDA* (full-day workshop)

**David A. Wood**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
*Scalable Cores and Caches for Power-Constrained CMPs*

**Andreas Rausch**, Software Systems Engineering at the Technische University Clausthal  
*Case Studies in Model-Based software engineering*

**Cameron McLean**, University of Auckland  
*A Pattern Language for Sharing Laboratory Science Practice*

**Ludwig Staiger**, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg  
*Oscillation-free epsilon-random sequences*

**Maria A. Wimmer**, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany  
*Concepts and solutions for pan-European interoperability in public procurement: the case of virtual company dossier*

**Sudheendra Kumar Pulla**, University of Auckland  
*An Adaptive UI Automation System*

**Mark Titchener**, University of Auckland

*PERTECS, a Programmable Environment for Real-Time Emulation of Continuous Systems*

**Benny Chor**, Tel-Aviv University  
*CS1001.py: A Topics Based Introduction to Computer Science*

**Brian Trammell**, CSG, ETH Zürich  
*The Open Internet Under Threat*

## Visitors

**Georgianne Griffiths** (Marie Curie Fellowship), University of Exeter, UK, visiting **Alexei Dru**

**Amelie Cordier**, LIRIS Laboratory, Lyon University, France, visiting **Ian Watson**

**Noam Greenberg**, VUW Wellington, visiting **Andre Nies**

**Theodore Slaman**, UC Berkeley, visiting **Andre Nies**

**Henri Prade**, University Paul Sabatier / IRIT, Toulouse, visiting **Sebastian Link**

**Robert (Bob) Owen**, School of Civil Engineering and Built Environment, Brisbane, visiting **Robert Amor**

**Rossella Lupacchini**, University of Bologna, visiting **Cris Calude**

**Florent Lafarge**, Geometrica Research Group, INRIA (France), visiting **Georgy Gimel'farb**

**Damien Desfontaines**, Ecole Normale Supérieure, France, visiting **Cris Calude**

**Brian Trammell**, ETH Zurich, visiting **Nevil Brownlee**

**Xu Zezhong** Changzhou Inst. of Technology, China, visiting **Reinhard Klette**

**Marc Jeanmougin**, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, visiting **Clark Thomborson**

**Himanshu Upreti**, Indian Institute of Technology Guwhati, visiting **Cris Calude**

**Mathieu Barnachon**, LIRIS Laboratory, Lyon University, France, visiting **Patrice Delmas**

**Yoran Le Bagousse**, ENSICAEN (National Engineering School), Caen, France, visiting **Patrice Delmas**

## PhD Theses

**Yun-Bum Kim**—*Distributed Algorithms in Membrane Systems*

**Alexander Melnikov**—*Computability and Structure*

**Mehwish Riaz**—*Maintainability Prediction for Database-Driven Software Applications*

**Sandino Morales Chavez**—*Vision-Based Driver Assistance*

**Muhammad Sulayman**—*Software Process Improvement for Medium and Small Software Development Organisations*

**Xiaofan (Emily) Chen**—*Extracting and Visualising traceability links between documents and source code*

**Reyhaneh Reyhani**—*Strategic Manipulation in Voting Systems*

**Muhammad Shaban Jokhio**—*Semantic Web Services*

Heather Armstrong



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## AUT

**James P. Cross**, Associate Provost & Senior International  
Officer, Champlain College

*Saide Lo*

### News

#### **AUT Space Station App wins NASA Challenge**

An AUT University computer science team has won New Zealand's NASA Space Apps Challenge with a mobile phone application that allows users to share their sightings of the International Space Station.

#### **New Zealand and the Beginnings of Radio Astronomy – A Process of Discovery**

The Institute for Radio Astronomy and Space Research (IRASR) hosted a two-day conference in Orewa at the end of January.

#### **Treat malware as biology to know it better – *New Scientist*** (February issue)

Classifying different kinds of malware is notoriously hard, but crucial if computer defences are to keep up with the ever-evolving ecosystem of malicious programs. Treating computer viruses as biological puzzle could help computer scientists get a better handle on the wide world of malware. **Ajit Narayanan** and **Yi Chen**, converted the signatures of 120 worms and viruses into an amino acid representation.

#### **Upcoming Conference**

Australasian Computer Science Week is a multi-conference event with a collection of some 14 different conferences and workshops aimed at supporting educators and researchers in the region and gathering high-quality contributions to the several computing research sub-disciplines.  
More info: <http://www.aut.ac.nz/acsw2014>.

### Appointments

**Weiqi Yan**, **Jiamou Liu** and **Quan Bai** have been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

### Award

**Nathan Scott** has received a Vice Chancellor's award.

### Visitors

**Vu Hai Quan**, University of Science, VNU-HCM, Vietnam

**Tran Minh Tuan**, University of Science, VNU-HCM,  
Vietnam

**Julong Pan**, China Jiliang University, China

**Xiangping Wu**, China Jiliang University, China

**Kangjian Wang**, China Jiliang University, China

**Daniela Damian**, University of Victoria, Canada

**Didar Zowghi**, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

**Martin Shepperd**, Brunel University

**Carolyn Mair**, University of the Art London

**Roisin Donohoe**, Director for International Development  
from Telecom SudParis