



## Canterbury Branch Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi June 2024 Newsletter

Dear Member

We hope you are all keeping warm as we head to the shortest day.

In this month's newsletter, a reminder of that the branch subscriptions are now due, more about the PM Science Winners talk in Christchurch and Timaru, judges needed for the Canterbury Westcoast School Science Fair, and possible field trips coming in the spring.

### Subscriptions.

We have sent this year's subscription notice, however if you did not receive it you can either email [payments@canterbury.rsnzbranch.org.nz](mailto:payments@canterbury.rsnzbranch.org.nz) or pay using the details are below. The branch subscription fees as

**Ordinary, \$45**

**Retired \$35**

**Student, \$10**

all discountable by \$5 for prompt payment by **31 July 2024**

**Bank account 02 0820 0601223 00**

Please add name in the reference and sub-2024

We hope you will continue your membership as your support is vital to the branch.

### The Prime Minister Science winners talks.

The branch has been given 2 PM Science winners talks that were announced by the PM on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

They are for Christchurch Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

### TE PUIAKI KAIPŪTAIAO MAEA MACDIARMID EMERGING SCIENTIST PRIZE 2023

Dr Samuel Mehr has won the 2023 Te Puiaki Kaipūtaiao Maea, Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize, for his work on the cognitive science of how humans perceive and produce music, using cutting-edge tools and theories from disciplines as diverse as data science, evolutionary anthropology, psychology, linguistics, and music studies.

Samuel is a Rutherford Discovery Fellow based in the School of Psychology at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland and is also a faculty member at the Child Study Centre at Yale University in the United States of America.

“In my research, we study the psychology of music: why it is that humans make music and listen to music and are so motivated to participate in music globally across the lifespan,” Samuel explains.

But the puzzle for a developmental psychologist is why?

Here is a link to a YouTube clip about the research: <https://youtu.be/-vJ7Jygr1eg>.

Royal Society Te Apārangī is also planning to hold Prime Minister’s Te Puiaki Pūtaiao Matua a Te Pirimia Science Prize 2023 talk by Professor Parry Guilford FRSNZ, from Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka | University of Otago, in Christchurch, with a possible date of September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Timaru Prime Minister’s Te Puiaki Pūtaiao Matua a Te Pirimia Science Prize 2023 talk by Professor Parry Guilford FRSNZ, from Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka | University of Otago is now scheduled for September, with a possible date of September 18<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to organise another series of talks, not afterwards these to capitalise on having these, so if you can think of any topics or people, we could consider for this please let us know.

## **Canterbury Westcoast School Science Fair**

The Canterbury Westcoast School Science Fair will be held on

**When:** 21st- 22nd September 2024 (Sat 21st Judging (am) and Public viewing (pm), Sunday 22nd Prize giving (11am) and Public Viewing (am)).

**Where:** University of Canterbury, fair held in the Ernest Rutherford Building, prize giving in Central Lecture Block.

We support this by providing prizes for this and require judges. If you can help judging in the morning of 21<sup>st</sup>, please email me [rwfagg@gmail.com](mailto:rwfagg@gmail.com)

## **Students travel grants.**

### **Awarded.**

No grants have been awarded.

### **Reports from grant recipients.**

None have been received.

## **Lincoln University Library member access**

Don’t forget once you have paid your brranch sub and received a receipt you can join the Library at Lincoln University and the library is waivering the first 10 members who join the membership card, otherwise it will cost \$30.

## Upcoming Branch talks, field trips and related activities

### Christchurch talks

#### **Winner of the Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize winner.**

Wednesday 14 August 6.00pm. Venue Ara Building DL Room DLEC

Registration is required and this will be required and link for this will be sent out once R

Prime Minister's Science Prize winner possible date 19th September Venue TBA

### Timaru talks

Prime Minister's Science Prize winner possible date 18th September Venue TBA

## Upcoming field trips

We been working on some field trips for the Spring. So far, we are looking at a tour of the University of Canterbury Campus, looking at the restoration of the Waiutuutu Okeover stream, an interesting long term study project for the Red Zone and a tour of a visiting ice-breaker ship.

Also, we have contacted NIWA to see if we can tour one of their research vessels when it's in port. Cause of planning issues, and while not impossible, they have offered to offer, for those members that might visit wellington, to arrange a tour of a vessel, if in port. We are continuing discussions with them to make this happen.

More details will be in the next newsletter.

And don't forget our CO2 monitor you can borrow. It's been in use regularly and don't forget to contact us and we arrange for you to pick it up. A guide to recommended CO2 measurements can be found at <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/470690/whose-breath-are-you-breathing>.

All we ask in return is that you post your findings on either the branch Facebook page or twitter.

As you can read, the branch and council have a lot coming up in the next few months, as well as plans to launch a podcast, and work with other groups to bring exciting opportunities to Canterbury and of course our members. If you want to help us, please contact us, your input will be valued.

## Link newsletter

The Royal Society Te Apārangī has resurrected the Link members newsletter, and as you know, branch members are automatically become Friends of the Royal Society Te Apārangī. If you don't know what benefits this brings, click here to find out- <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/join-us/friends/>

Back to the Link newsletter. We will place a link here for you to get the newsletter-

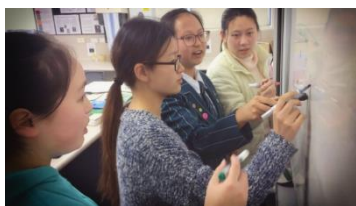
<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/fellows-and-members/link-news/2024/march/>

<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/fellows-and-members/link-news/2024/april/>

<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/fellows-and-members/link-news/2024/april-2/>

## From other branches and RSNZ Te Apārangi

### From Royal Society Te Apārangi



#### [New Zealand Engineering Science Competition](#)

Can your students win \$1000 in the New Zealand Engineering Science Competition?

Hosted by the University of Auckland, this fun and challenging day-long competition is targeted at teams of three to four senior students, who have interests in mathematics and science.

The 2024 competition will run near the start of term 3, on Saturday the 10th of August. The problem is revealed at 10am in the morning and students work in their teams to provide a solution by 6pm of that day. First prize is \$1,000 per student and the two runner-up teams get \$500 per student. There is also a \$500 prize for the teacher in charge of each of the top three teams.

Registration is free and closes Friday 2nd of August.

For more information and to register your team(s) see the [Department of Engineering Science website](#) at the University of Auckland.



#### **Applications open: Apply for the Science Teaching Leadership Programme**

**Applications for Term 1 2025 are now open!**

The Science Teaching Leadership Programme provides opportunities for primary schools, secondary science departments and their nominated teachers to enhance the teaching of science within school communities.

[Learn more about what is involved in the Programme.](#)

[Tono mai and apply now!](#)

**The closing date is 12 July 2024.**

## Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand

["Hawke's Bay Scientists on Air" radio broadcasts](#), which we support, now go to air each second Monday after the 10:00 am news.

## Links to articles of interest

### From The Conversation

Earth's climate system is connected across hemispheres. When the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation weakens and Europe cools, warming in New Zealand and southern mid-latitudes accelerates.

Click here [Weakening or collapse of a major Atlantic current has disrupted NZ's climate in the past – and could do so again](#)



### From The Conversation

Parisa Ziaesaeidi, Western Sydney University

Current construction approaches are too slow to achieve the ambitious national housing target. But there's a proven alternative building technology that's more efficient, faster and greener.

Click here [Prefabs and the 'missing middle': how to get Australia back on track to build 1.2 million homes in the next 5 years](#)



You can keep updated by on the branch's Facebook page Canterbury RSNZ Branch or twitter @CanterburyRSNZ.

If have any suggestions for speakers, field trips ideas, or even contribute something in the newsletter please contact us and I am always willing to discuss anything regarding the branch with you.

Roger Fagg  
Branch President  
C: 0272497325  
E: [rwfagg@gmail.com](mailto:rwfagg@gmail.com)