

LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Teacher Update Number 11 – 13th September 2010

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This week's seminar

Our thoughts go out to our colleagues in Christchurch dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake 10 days ago. We hope that school routines return to normal as soon as possible.

However, the damage to the University of Christchurch means that the University will not be able to host students for this week's seminar. We will get a recording of the seminar onto our website as soon as possible after the event so Christchurch teachers can download it to watch with their students.

For those of you still able to participate in the seminar, it's on this Thursday 16 September, and the topic is Rethinking Polynesian Origins: Human Settlement of the Pacific. It features the work of Allan Wilson Centre researcher Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith, whom some of you may have seen in public lectures here in Auckland. This seminar will look at Lisa's work and how the story of human settlement of the Pacific has changed as a result of advances in biotechnological techniques. It will also look at examples of founder effects in the evolution of modern Polynesians.



Update on the Chemicals in our Food teacher professional development.

Unfortunately due to the Christchurch earthquake, we have had to cancel next week's teacher professional development, Chemicals in our Food. Professor Ian Shaw, who was to be the featured scientist, is from Christchurch. The University of Canterbury was quite badly affected by the earthquake so Ian has a lot to do down there to get things up and running again. We hope to reschedule this professional development for later in Term 4.

Upcoming LENSscience Events for teachers and students in Term 4

We will be running workshops for Year 7&8 and Year 9&10 students in Term 4 on the topic Chemicals in our Food. This will also be broadcast to schools around New Zealand. The date for the workshops is Thursday November 18th. More information will follow later this term

Also in Term 4 there will be a teacher PD event and a student workshop on Diabetes and Obesity. This supports a module of work for Year 11 students called Science and Society: Diabetes - An Issue for My Community. The student workshop is aimed at Year 10 students. More information will follow later this term.