

GFANZ AGM 14th November 2020 President's Report

This report is for 1 July 2019 through 30 June 2020 (inclusive).

Ngā mihi maioha to all GFANZ members for making our third year great. We may be small in number, but we are mighty in spirit and energy. It is always good to reflect on what we did together in the last year and look forward to the next.

The GFANZ Council continues to play a key role in guiding us as we grow our kaupapa. I appreciate the energy, ideas, wisdom, and kindness they each bring. Thank you all.

As we all know, 2020 has been full of challenges. We took the decision in March to extend all memberships by 6 months without cost. This way there was one less thing for people to think about as we went into lock down.

Even with the extraordinary circumstances, GFANZ has made good progress.

Annual Planning Hui

In February we held our annual planning hui. This brought the council together as well as many members and some people that were just interested to see what we are about. From the korero that weekend, the next steps for GFANZ were made clear and planned. Much of it was around messaging, the redesign of the website, and outreach. We have done many of the things that were planned. The main exception being the kind of outreach that involves travel around the motu, for obvious reasons.

Indigenous Genomics Institute

A conversation over lunch with Lisa, Ange, and Robyn sparked the idea of an Indigenous Genomics Institute. Lisa has been leading the way by socialising the concept throughout her networks. Many others have been helping spread the word. It has been met with much interest and enthusiasm. GFANZ applied for and obtained a trademark on "Indigenous Genomics Institute". This way we can be confident in using that phrase knowing it cannot be taken away.

Engagement Activities

Te Rangi Kaihoru gave a presentation on *Te Ira Moana* at Massey in Palmerston North in September of last year. It was well attended. The meetings he had with researchers around Massey were productive as well.

I presented a talk about GFANZ at the Microbiology Society Meeting in November. We had good feedback on that talk.

In February, a group of us represented GFANZ at the Kiwi Whakapapa hui in Rawhiti. This was a wonderful opportunity not only for outreach, but to listen and gain some understanding of the interests of the people there.

The Palmy Bioinfo Meeting held 10 meetings, with one being cancelled due to the lock down. As usual, we had many interesting speakers, great student talks, and even a visit from Siouxsie Wiles.

The Wellington GFANZ meetup started last year. They were hosted at Dragonfly Data Science. The pandemic interrupted the momentum, but there is a lot of interest in getting that meeting going again in one form or another.

Workshops

The workshops that we held this year were primarily focused on teaching cloud computing skills, the use of git, automated testing and deployment, and docker containers. We did a series of these workshops. They were small, informal, and (based on the feedback) useful. The last one we did brought all the parts together. All of the attendees were able to create and publish a docker container with their favourite piece of bioinformatics software using our platform.

In addition to that workshop series, I did a few workshops during lock down with several students. The topics included command line fundamentals, cloud computing, and research methods. It was a nice way to stay connected during a difficult time.

Public Bioinformatics Platform

More milestones along our roadmap for the bioinformatics platform were met. This includes the trialling of the workflow engine Argo. GFANZ member Gillian Gibb used parts of the platform to assemble the genomes of 3 bird species. This was the first project that brought some funds in for using the platform.

This concludes the President's report for the the financial year ending 30 June 2020.

Nāku, nā



Rob Elshire
President
Genomics for Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated