



**School of Environmental and Animal Sciences
Research Symposium
2025**

Welcome to the Unitec School of Environmental and Animal Sciences Symposium 2025. This Symposium invites researchers from across Aotearoa New Zealand in fields including:

- Ecology
- Conservation
- Veterinary nursing
- Animal health
- Taxonomy
- Animal behaviour
- Animal welfare
- Human behaviour change
- Environmental genetics

Our Symposium is open to a range of researchers, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, new researchers, and established researchers. Invitation to present is open to any researcher, including academic institutes, industry organisations, and independents. Attendance is also open to anyone interested in the research environment on the above topics within Aotearoa New Zealand.

Why Attend?

- **Networking:** Connect with fellow ECRs, established researchers, and industry professionals. Forge collaborations that transcend disciplinary boundaries.
- **Visibility:** Elevate your research profile by presenting your work to a diverse audience. Gain recognition and inspire others.
- **Feedback:** Receive constructive feedback from peers and mentors. Refine your research trajectory.
- **Inspiration:** Engage with thought-provoking talks, panels, and workshops. Fuel your curiosity and ignite new research directions.

Programme schedule

Time	Session
8:30-9:00	Registration (Foyer Building 115)
9:00-9:15	Welcome (Room 115-2005)
9:15-10:00	Keynote 1 Dr Sarah Killick (Principal Biosecurity Advisor, Auckland Council) Strengthening Biosecurity and Pest Management Through Strategic Partnering Chair: Sofia Chambers; Room 115-2005
10:00-10:25	Morning Tea (Room 115-1008)
10:30-12:00	Session 1: Undergraduate Student Oral Presentations Chair: Peter de Lange; Room 115-2005 1: <u>Amelia Tapp</u> - Mapping the suitability range of <i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> (Oriental Fruit Fly) with reference to New Zealand 2: <u>Alia Slack</u> - A cheeky sniff: Olfactory preferences in kea (<i>Nestor notabilis</i>) 3: <u>Georgia Loft</u> - The pulling behaviour of dogs when walked with a collar restraint versus walked with a harness restraint 4: <u>Phoenix Whaiapu</u> - Exploring the relationship between rarity and representation in natural history collections 5: <u>Meesha Anderson</u> - What happens in the shadows: the unknown impact of visitors on captive kiwi 6: <u>Matthew Macklin</u> - On a real time method for the detection of mold using fluorescence imaging 7: <u>Mickayla Newman</u> - The Nares Knows: Exploring Olfactory preferences in a kākā (<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>) 8: <u>Paolina Lloren</u> - Preliminary findings for an investigation of the prevalence and outcomes of cat (<i>Felis catus</i>) predation on wild bird admissions at BirdCare Aotearoa
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Room 115-1008)
13:35-14:05	Keynote 2 Dr Kelsey Renner (Resident in Internal Medicine, ARC Vets) Research in Veterinary Practice and the Treatment of FIP in Cats Chair: Chloe Mc Menamin; Room 115-2005
14:05-14:30	Session 2: Poster Speed Presentations

	Chair: Diane Fraser; Room 115-2005 1: <u>Chloe Mc Menamin</u> - Fluralaner and its potential threat to native invertebrates 2: <u>Margie Rutherford</u> - Should I stay or should I go: Allied veterinary professional retention in Aotearoa New Zealand 3: <u>Linguo Ji</u> - Evaluating the effects of intermittent reinforcement on concept formation in canine lung cancer detection 4: <u>Robyn Gear</u> - The opinions of New Zealand veterinary nurses to the use and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) within veterinary clinical practice 5: <u>Chloe Mc Menamin</u> – Genetic solutions for the brachycephalic health and welfare crisis: A way forward in addressing respiratory challenges 6: <u>Kumudu Samarappuli</u> - Markov chain GANs for bioacoustic signal synthesis 7: <u>Samuel Clough</u> – Recent investigations indicate diet and habitat change in the Angolan flying squid (<i>Todarodes angolensis</i>) 8: <u>Greyson Jeon</u> – Social approach preferences in guinea pigs (<i>Cavia porcellus</i>) 9: <u>Lucia Wang</u> - Challenges in tertiary education delivery modes 10: <u>Jiecheng Huang</u> - Perception of Auckland Council’s biosecurity Commitment Form by recreational boat users in Tīkapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf
14:30-15:30	Poster session and afternoon tea (Room 115-2009)
15:35-17:00	Veterinary Nursing Research Workshop Chair: Robyn Gear; Room 115-1028 Session 3: Oral Presentations Chair: Caralyn Kemp; Room 115-2005 1: <u>Wesley Webb</u> - Understanding the evolution of elaborate female song in songbirds 2: <u>Bianca Kuhlmann</u> - When botulism strikes: Insights from 7 years of avian botulism admissions to BirdCare Aotearoa 2018-2025 3: <u>Peter de Lange</u> - The rarest ecosystem – karst islands of Rēkohu Wharekauri Chatham Island 4: <u>Ishan Bhasin</u> – Can concentration-varied secondary target training improve generalisation across primary target concentrations in scent-detection dogs? 5: <u>Kara Goddard</u> - Planting smarter: Measuring survival for evidence-based ecological restoration 6: <u>Samantha Robertson</u> - Auckland Zoo’s browse nutrition project
17:00	Close and networking drinks and nibbles