



VUW HUB FOR SIMULATION, NUMERICAL
METHODS, ANALYTICS AND PROGRAMMING

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

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Upcoming Workshops

Version Control with Git

We are planning a hands-on, interactive workshop on Version Control using Git.

This workshop will be welcome to students, early career researchers or anyone who is interested in learning a way to manage their digital projects. We will be using the Unix Shell but no experience is needed to attend.

We will be roughly following the Carpentries lesson of the same title, linked [here](#).

Register your interest here.

Time, date and location?

2:00PM – 5:00PM, June 2nd; AM103 Kelburn Campus

What is Version Control and Git?

Version control is a tool for managing and tracking the files used within a project. As a research project evolves, files will be written and re-written, the file management system may change; collaborators may want to edit the same files which will lead to conflicts. Tracking these changes can be overwhelming to manage manually, but we are able to systematise it with version control. Git is a version control software that we will use, as it is free, open source and widely adopted.

Introduction to *Rāpoi*

We will hold at least one workshop on introduction to Raapoi.

One of these workshops will be held at the Robinson Research Institute with the aim of helping its staff and students specifically. We are tentatively planning an introduction to Unix Shell workshop to run in conjunction as a multi-part series for those who have little experience with the command line interface.

We are also looking to host another introduction to Raapoi session on Kelburn campus to reach a wider audience.

Time, date and location?

The time, date and location has not been determined. **Keep an eye on emails for updates.**

What is Raapoi?

Raapoi is Te Herenga Waka's High Performance Computing (HPC) tool. HPCs are used to run computationally expensive tasks by distributing the workload among its several computational cores hosted in its architecture. Like many other HPCs, the primary way to access Raapoi is to connect to its server via the command line interface (CLI).

Upcoming **Workshops**

SNAP Annual Symposium

SNAP has been hosting annual workshops for the many years where researchers across disciplines throughout Te Herenga Waka come together to spend a day learning about each others' research and computational skills and tools. We are excited to continue this tradition in 2026.

Look out for future emails for more information!

For information on the presentations at last years symposium, click [here to view our blog post](#).

Time, date and location?

We are looking to host this symposium on one day during early to mid November. The specific time, date and location has not been determined. **Keep an eye on emails for updates.**

Coffee Meet-up!



Join us on the third Wednesday of each month, 10:30AM @ Milk and Honey

Have a coffee and meet other researchers, students, and SNAP community members! Whether you're looking to connect, share ideas, or take a well-earned break, these relaxed meetups are a great place to start. Look for the table with our **SNAP** logo.

We will have an **AI discussion on May 20th**.

Talk about your thoughts and goals with us on AI over coffee.

Student Coffee Meet-up!

Network with fellow students about computational wins and woes without stuffy staff in the way.

We welcome students at any level (under or post-grad) in any discipline. This will be a casual hang-out where we get to know each other and discuss ideas on how to improve support in computational skills among students.

Time, date and location to be confirmed – keep an eye out for posters and email updates.

New Rāpoi Specialist: Dr. Muhammad Hashmi



We are delighted to announce that Dr Muhammad Hashmi has accepted the position of Research Computing Specialist for Rāpoi. His appointment marks a significant step forward for SNAP and the wider university community. Dr Hashmi has long been a pivotal member of the SNAP team. His dedication and expertise have greatly enhanced our ability to support both staff and students at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW).

In his new capacity, Dr Hashmi is currently dividing his time equally between his position as Research Computing Specialist and his ongoing role as a Research Fellow in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences (SCPS). He is fulfilling these responsibilities on a 50:50 basis, ensuring continued excellence in both areas.

Recruiting

New SNAP Student Representative

We are looking for a new Snap Student Representative to join Angela and Qurat.

Our mission is to provide students with tools and services to support their computational skills and research. We plan and workshops, host a weekly online office hour, and create a space where students can network and collaborate with each other in their journeys. Our specific responsibilities include:

- Deciding which workshops students want and need,
- Gathering instructors and helpers to run said workshop,
- Advertise the workshop through designing posters, writing blurbs,
- Writing blog-posts
- Offering computational help online

If you are passionate about supporting fellow students and interested in helping with any of the above tasks, email snap-students@vuw.ac.nz to get in touch!

In return, you will receive invaluable experience supporting your community, and a fantastic addition to your CV.

Since the last update...

Learning AI

September 2nd & 9th, 2025

Dr. Emily O’Riordan, lecturer in ECS and Carpentries instructor led a two-part workshop series covering machine learning concepts. This workshop series was attended by staff, postdocs and PhD students from a wide range of disciplines eager to learn how machine learning practices may fit into their research. Discussions on consent, bias and transparency regarding machine learning transpired.

Session one focused more on basic machine learning concepts such as linear regression and decision tree classifiers, and how a choice of model may impact can impact error rates and predictions. Session two covered supervised and unsupervised machine learning, and ended with participants creating and training their own machine learning algorithm to identify hand written digits.

Both workshops included lecture-style content as well as hand-on experience with Python using Google Colab and Scikit-Learn.

For the full blog post of session one and the accompanying presentation, click [here](#).

For the full blog post of session two, presentation and Jupyter notebook, click [here](#).

Typography on a Managed Pathway

October 17th, 2025

Senior lecturer Dr. Baptiste Auguie of SCPS led a workshop on programmable typesetting with the tool **typst**. With this technology, he showed how we can create dynamic and professional documents such presentations and resumes. With **typst**, we are also able to automate the creation of posters, course booklets, assessments showcasing differing information whilst having full control of the formatting and styling of our documents.

Baptiste is responsible for the course posters scattered around the school of chemical and physical sciences, among other documents.

For the full blog post and access to Baptiste’s resources, click [here](#).



Since the last update...

Intermediate SSH

December 4th, 2025

The last workshop of the year was led by Dr. James Quilty of ECS on fundamental concepts of Secure Shell (SSH). SSH is a core tool for anyone connecting to remote servers or HPC systems, but its terminology and configuration options can sometimes feel obscure. Participants brought their own laptops and followed hands-on exercises throughout the workshop, gaining practical experience and leaving with clearer, more confident workflows for remote access.

For the full blog post and James' notes, click [here](#).

Christmas Gathering

December 11th, 2025

SNAP hosted its annual Christmas gathering in the Hunter Lounge concluding another year of workshops and advancements in the SNAP community. This informal get-together brought staff and students alike to socialise and relax over food and drinks.

For the full blog post, click [here](#).



Introduction to Python and Machine Learning

March 17th & 19th, 2026

SNAP hosted a two-session workshop series entitled Introduction to Python and Machine learning. Each session was 4 hours long and attended by about 15 to 20 students from different disciplines. At least 20-25 students attended the workshop.

Session 1 was led by PhD students Richard Littauer and Angela Xue. Attendees learned the fundamentals of Python programming and data analysis and visualisation.

Session 2 was led by Dr. Emily O'Riordan where she took students through a hands-on demonstration of basic machine learning concepts with the Python library Scikit Learn.

For the full blog posts and resources used for sessions 1 and 2, click [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

Contact Us

For inquiries, suggestions or notices, email: snap@vuw.ac.nz

Students can email: snap-students@vuw.ac.nz

Discord + Help Desk



We have an online Discord community where students can converse and collaborate on programming endeavours. The server is run by student representative Angela Xue and helper Richard Littauer.

Share research ✓ Share coding progress ✓ Ask and answer coding questions ✓ Weekly office hour

Join here: discord.com/invite/NWRkkm6Sw4

Blog

Catch up on all of our on-goings on our [Blog](#).



Blog

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March Python Workshop - Session 02
SNAP hosted the second session of the "Introduction to Python and Machine Learning" workshop series on 19 March 2026. This session was led by Dr. Emily O'Riordan, a lecturer...

MUHAMMAD HASHMI MAR 19, 2026



SNAP Coffee March 2026
Join us for coffee with others who use simulation, numerics, analytics, and programming in their research, every third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 to 11:00 at Milk and...

MUHAMMAD HASHMI MAR 18, 2026



March Python Workshop - Session 01
On 17 March 2026, SNAP hosted the first session of the "Introduction to Python and Machine Learning" workshop series. The session was led by Angela Xue (School of Chemical...

MUHAMMAD HASHMI MAR 17, 2026



Editors

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