

# Light, beetles, and an electron microscope – Science Wānanga at Kahuranaki Marae, Hastings

September 24, 2018

Playing with light and looking at beetles at 1,300 times their normal size was on the agenda for the Science Wānanga at Hastings last week.

Joining researchers from the Dodd-Walls Centre were 48 students and their teachers from Hawke's Bay. The Dodd-Walls team included chemists and physicists from the universities of Otago and Auckland.

The wānanga was hosted by Kahuranaki Marae and Ngāti Kahungunu. The out of town visitors were treated to a three day stay overlooking Lake Poukawa and the students from schools around Hastings were treated to science learning through a range of hands-on activities ranging from tie dying of t-shirts to building camera obscuras.

The theme of the wānanga was *Insects: the descendants of Torohuka and Muhumu*.

The Dodd-Walls Centre team had with them a range of insect specimens that are normally kept on campus in the university collection. Students had the amazing experience of connecting remotely and in real-time to a scanning electron microscope at the Photon Factory at The University of Auckland and they were able to see a *megadromus* beetle up close and personal at 1,300 times magnification.

The Science Wānanga is a University of Otago programme from the Division of Sciences and is designed to engage with Māori students and promote science and higher education at the same time as bring together scientific thinking and Iwi world views and values.

