



ALLAN WILSON CENTRE

The Longest Journey: from Africa to Aotearoa

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What does it mean to be a New Zealander?

This is a compelling social question facing an increasingly multicultural New Zealand. Genetic studies indicate that we can all ultimately trace our origins to Africa. About 65,000 years ago modern humans started expanding across the globe. The final landmass settled by humans was Aotearoa/New Zealand, just 750 years ago. While Maori were the first to arrive, they were joined by later migrants, primarily from Europe, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

A genetic study of the population of New Zealand today will map the many pathways our ancestors travelled, which ultimately brought each of us here. Preliminary results from our first year of sampling the genetic diversity of New Zealand will be presented and discussed in terms of their implications for understanding New Zealand's settlement history.

The first 50 people to RSVP for this talk will have the chance to provide a sample, following the lecture, to be analysed as part of this 2000-sample genetic study of New Zealanders' origins. Each participant will receive their individual result. Registration essential for DNA sampling.*



Collecting DNA samples in Wellington



A map displaying early Pacific migrations

NELSON: Old St John's, 320 Hardy Street, Nelson, Tuesday 12th August, 6-7pm

QUEENSTOWN: Queenstown Memorial Centre, 1 Memorial St, Queenstown, Wednesday 13th August, 6-7pm

*Free admission. To register for DNA sampling, email: awc-lectures@massey.ac.nz RSVP 30 July