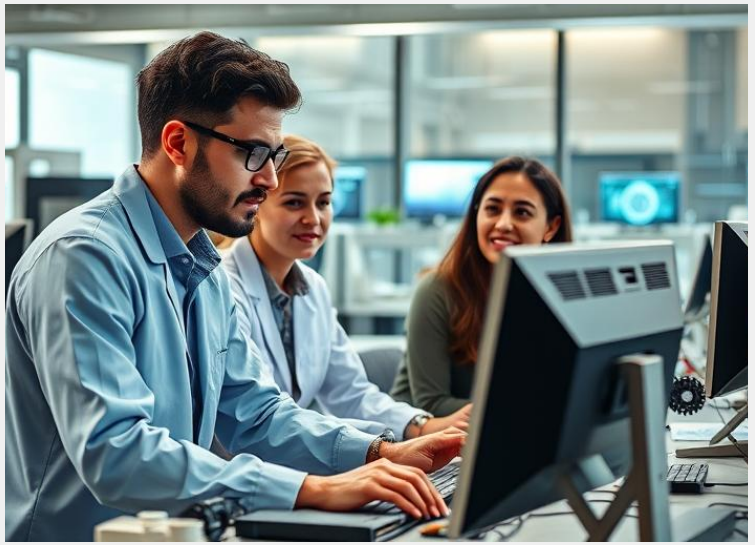
Navigating the Path to a Career in Research Software Engineering



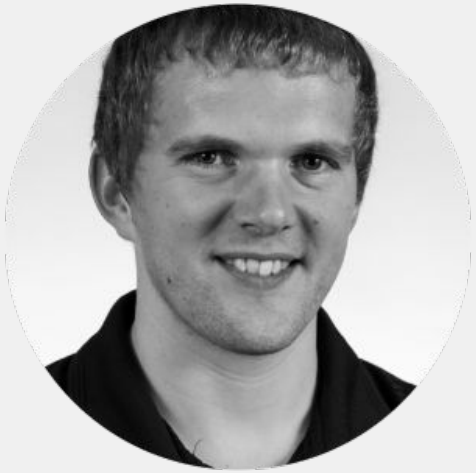
New Zealand eScience Infrastructure

REANNZ - NeSI Integration

Strengthening eResearch infrastructure through the integration of NeSI into REANNZ

Team

Introductions

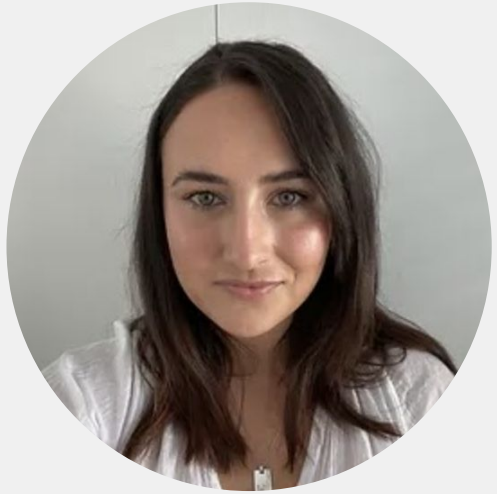


Chris Scott

Research Software Engineer at NeSI, specialising in scientific and high-performance computing. He supports researchers in fields like physics, climate science, and quantum mechanics, contributing to projects on NZ climate models, planetary simulations, and quantum tools.

Janet Stacey

Lead Senior Scientist in Digital and Data for the Forensic R&D team at ESR, with MSc degrees in Forensic Science and Bioinformatics. With 17+ years in forensic biology and data science, she works on AI, automation, analytics, and mentoring. Her interests include forensic intelligence, responsible AI, Māori Data Sovereignty, and Bayesian Networks, now central to her PhD.



Mercedes Randell

Research Communities Advisor at NeSI and Co-Chair of the RSE-AUNZ Steering Committee. With a background in cognitive neuroscience, she spent several years as a researcher before moving into research support and community building. Her work focuses on enabling collaboration, supporting research software development, and growing technical communities across disciplines.

Objectives for the Session

What will you learn or gain?

- Understanding of RSE roles
- Career insights
- Networking opportunities

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RSE background in Aotearoa New Zealand

- What is an RSE? An RSE is someone who combines skills in software development and research. They may not always hold the job title "RSE" but play a crucial role in enabling research through code, tools, infrastructure, and training.

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RSE History

The Evolution of Research Software Engineers (RSEs) in New Zealand

Pre-2017

Hidden Contributors

Researchers, postdocs, and students wrote code without formal recognition. Technical staff filled RSE roles informally, often lacking support or community.

2017

Community Emerges

The Research Software Engineers of Aotearoa New Zealand (RSE-AUNZ) network began to coalesce.

2021

RSE-AUNZ Forms

RSE-AUNZ formed as a trans-Tasman community with Slack, meetups, and more visibility. NZ members shaped its collaborative structure.

2022

Institutional Support

NeSI supported RSE roles. Universities like Auckland, Otago, and Canterbury had RSE-adjacent teams, often under other titles.

2023

Current Challenges

Many RSEs work in isolation. There's a lack of career pathways and recognition. Funding is often project-based, making sustainability difficult.

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Icebreaker round

- Have you heard of the term Research Software Engineer (RSE) before today?
- What brought you to this session?
- What interests you about research software or working in this space?

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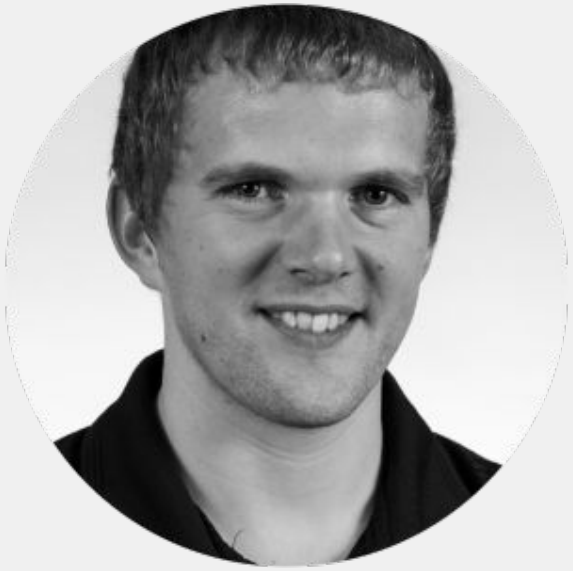
Panel



Chris Scott

Janet Stacey

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Open Q&A session

Open Q&A session

We encourage you to ask questions or share feedback related to the topics discussed. This is an opportunity for open dialogue and clarification.

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Call to Action

How to get involved with RSE-AUNZ

NeSI (New Zealand eScience Infrastructure)

- Website: https://www.nesi.org.nz
- Newsletter signup: https://www.nesi.org.nz/community/news
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/nesi-nz

RSE-AUNZ (Research Software Engineers – Australia & New Zealand)

- Website: https://rse-aunz.github.io
- Mailing list signup: https://rse-aunz.github.io/#get-involved
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/rse-aunz

🗓️ **RSE-NZ 2025 Online Conference is coming up on September 23-24!**

Sign up to the NeSI newsletter and the RSE-AUNZ mailing list to be the first to hear about the call for participation, schedule, and registration details.

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Thank you!

Have further questions?

Contact: support@nesi.org.nz

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