

## *Higher Learning*



### *Optical bootcamp*

The MacDiarmid Emerging Scientists Association (MESA) ran its 4th annual three-day 'bootcamp' – an 'adventurous academic experience in a remote location' – during the International Year of Light.

Themed 'Shining Light,' the 2015 camp explored new frontiers in optical research at the Kaikoura Field Station. MacDiarmid Principal Investigators Associate Professor Cather Simpson and Professor Bill Williams, along with Dr Baptiste Auguié, joined the students and post-docs in a long weekend of intensive research.

### *Integrating science with Māori culture*

The 2015 Student and Postdoc Symposium was held in Te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui in November on the theme of 'Mātauranga Māori, Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials'.

Postdoc Bart Ludbrook said the aim was to stimulate discussion around the role of the MacDiarmid Institute with respect to the development of Mātauranga Māori and that a highlight was a crash course in Te Reo Māori. MESA past president and PhD student Harry Warring said he really enjoyed the fresh approach to the Symposium. "It was great to explore how we can better integrate science with Māori culture."