December 2023

Report:

As a Geoscience 2023 travel grant recipient, I was very excited to be able to attend the joint Australasian Groundwater and New Zealand Hydrological Society conference in Auckland in November 2023. This grant provided me with the opportunity to attend an international conference that otherwise would not have been possible through my workplace. Furthermore, the grant made it possible to attend the groundwater modelling workshop, which was a part of the conference programme, and this was a unique opportunity that resulted in me enhancing my knowledge and gaining a better understanding of the most up-to date software tools available in this field.

The conference provided an insight into leading-edge developments within the field of both surface water and groundwater technologies, alongside new methods for assessments of water resources including emerging AI technologies. The technical presentations provided interesting insights into new technical tools being applied for better visualisation and analysis techniques of geochemistry data and groundwater levels.

I had the opportunity to present research which formed part of my recently completed PhD. This provided me the chance to strengthen my presentation and communications skills as well as presenting a new methodology that can be applied to constrain the aeration constant based on stream flow monitoring for the estimation of groundwater inflow to small heterogenous streams using radon concentrations, which is otherwise a contributor to a large uncertainty in this estimation methodology.

The conference also provided plenty of opportunities to enhance already established relationships within the groundwater assessments and modelling industry, as well as building new ones.

I would like to finish with an acknowledgment of the Geoscience Australia and SLR Consulting for supporting this opportunity and my participation in the conference, and to QUT where I conducted my research for my PhD that formed the basis for my presentation at the conference.

In summary, this was a well organised conference that offered insights into the latest developments in the groundwater and surface water area alongside several great networking opportunities provided at the conference. I look forward to being able to attend the next conference!

Lisa B. Gurieff

Picture from conference location, Auckland, New Zealand and conference presentation frontpage