

Modelling SIG News

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Third edition!

So this is our third newsletter. In this issue we have profiles of two of our new committee members and lots of news about recent and upcoming events. Enjoy!

http://www.waternz.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=328

Committee Member Profile - Gregory De Costa

It is a privilege and honour to serve the Water New Zealand Modelling SIG. We have already passed the shortest day of the year and hence can look forward to the longer and enjoyable days even though it could be still on the colder side. Let me introduce myself. I attended the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka, where I did my Civil Engineering Degree, and then spent 6 years at Hiroshima University Japan where I did my Masters in Environmental Engineering and PhD in Hydraulics. Since then, I have been to many universities for short time stints, National University of Ireland Galway, Kyoto University, Open University UK to name a few and have been working on modelling and forecasting, as well as engineering education.

We migrated to clean green New Zealand in 2002, and lived in wet, wild and windy Wellington. While there I worked at the Open Polytechnic and was involved in research and modelling work related to the Waiwhetu aquifer. Two years back, I left beautiful Wellington to the city of sails, Auckland and currently work for Unitec. The research focus is still the modelling of different aspects of the Waiwhetu aquifer. I am also on the council of the International Association for Hydraulic Research – Asia Pacific Division. I have been in academia and research now for many years.

I look forward to working on the SIG committee.



Gregory De Costa

Committee Member Profile - Vicki Koopal

I am an Environmental Engineer at Jeff Booth Consulting Ltd and have been employed here for the last 13 years. JBCL is the New Zealand distributor for the Innovyze range of modelling products and a major part of my job is being the first port of call for software users in New Zealand when they are having issues using the software packages. Providing solutions for these issues means I can be working on something different every day.

We run User Groups every year and as part of these I do a number of presentations showing new features in the software and tips for getting the most out of the software to users. I have also developed introductory and advanced training courses for the InfoWorks range of software and have seen many towns throughout New Zealand while travelling around training new users. I am also involved in project work where I build water and sewer models in the Innovyze software and calibrate these for clients. I also get out and about installing Technolog dataloggers to collect pressure and flow data for use in water supply model calibration.

Based in Rotorua, I also enjoy getting out on my mountain bike and water skiing in my spare time.

More information about the committee members can be viewed here:

http://www.waternz.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=333



Vicki Koopal

Recent Events

Stormwater Conference

We returned to Christchurch in May for a conference for the first time since the Earthquakes. The industry came out on mass to support the 2014 Stormwater Conference which was held at Rydges in Latimer Square. Despite holding the conference at the largest available venue in Christchurch we were full to capacity.

Many of the delegates were seeing Christchurch for the first time since the quakes. Witnessing the remnants of the devastation first hand was an emotionally



raw experience for many of the visiting attendees. Broken buildings, twisted rebar, flooded basements, the Cathedral overrun with pigeons and many of the remaining buildings held up by exoskeletons of steel. Without many of the landmarks to give a clue to direction conference goers had a challenging time navigating between the venue, the city and back again. While we knew factually pre conference what had happened to Christchurch seeing it first-hand really brought the massive scale of the issues into sharp focus.

Addresses from the Mayor - Lianne Dalziel, and Christchurch City's Land Drainage Manager Mike Gillooly both focused on the human impacts of flooding in post-earthquake Christchurch. Conveying the emotions of the people impacted by both the earthquakes and now impacted by the increased incidence of flooding brought home to attendees the necessity of the work we do.

Many of the papers highlighted how the Christchurch rebuild is being driven by insurance money and insurance money does not allow for betterment.

The Stormwater modelling papers were successfully integrated throughout the conference streams which had the desired effect of broadening the audience for modelling papers.

We had the spectacular Cardboard Cathedral as the venue for the conference dinner which most delegates chose to attend. Despite the chilly night air many of the diners braved the city streets looking for surviving bars to continue networking into the small hours.

The site tour of the Avon river precinct gave attendees an insight into the scale of the works being undertaken – both of the Avon and of the surrounding city centre.

Overall holding the conference in Christchurch was a great success. The joint Modelling, Rivers, and Stormwater conference continues to provide value by presenting a wide range of topics to the industry. We'll definitely consider returning to the Garden City in the not too distant future so we can continue to tap into the inspirational work which is going on there.

Photos

http://www.waternz.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=749



Nick Brown



Jeff McLean

Canterbury Regional Event

In February, Helen Shaw from Environment Canterbury spoke on the New Zealand Rainfall & Runoff Guidelines. Helen is part of the steering group providing some direction to the Guidelines, and gave an update on progress. The Guidelines are in an early stage of development, and Helen was able to explain what the steering group is thinking in terms of the structure and content of the Guidelines, and the work done to date, including engaging NIWA to carry out an analysis of the approaches used around the country and current gaps in knowledge. The event was well attended with over 50 attendees, reflecting the value of developing the Guidelines. Thanks go to the Stormwater and Rivers Groups for helping to publicise the event and AECOM for hosting.

Interested in hosting an event or sharing an interesting piece of modelling work? Please let us know. Our regional events only happen with the input of our members.

Events are generally hosted in a location with a meeting room that can hold around 20 people. The host company normally sponsors the event by providing some beverages and snacks. The gatherings are informal and a great way to meet other modellers and share experiences.

We hope to see you at an event near you soon.

Upcoming Events

Auckland Regional Meeting

The Modelling Committee is pleased to announce the next Auckland Regional Meeting will be held at Auckland University Engineering School: Room 3.402 at 17:50 Wednesday 9th July 2014.

Assoc. Prof. Naresh Singhal, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of Auckland, New Zealand presenting on the biological nitrous oxide production and catalytic degradation of organic micropollutants

Jan Heijs from Heijs Consulting Ltd.
Presenting: Are we (you!) getting carried away

Jan Heijs has managed planning teams and planning projects most of his 30+ years working life. Jan will present a number of his observations related to modelling support to planning processes. Are there quicker and better ways to get the outcomes we are looking for. Where is the business case to do 'accurate' and detailed catchment modelling? Are we building in a safety factor in our calculations and what is the price for getting it wrong? How does the modelling community present itself to the 'ignorant' clients? How does the modelling community respond to the call for 'quick and dirty' and where are the risks?

For more information and RSVP info@wse.co.nz or 021 326 979.

Water New Zealand's Annual Conference & Expo – Hamilton

Modelling Stream Update

The Water NZ Annual Conference will be held in Hamilton at the Claudelands Events Centre from the 17th to 19th September 2014. The Modelling Group Committee has been planning the modelling stream for the conference.

The Modelling Stream will be a single day like last year and held on the Wednesday. The outline programme consists of the following:

Conference opening and keynote of the main conference

Morning Tea

Session 1 **Modelling Stream Keynote**
Three Technology based papers

Lunch **AGM**

Session 2 **Three Wastewater based papers**

Afternoon Tea

Session 3 **Three Stormwater based papers**

Evening **Modelling Dinner & Quiz – sponsored by Jeff Booth Consulting Ltd**



The Modelling Committee looks forward to seeing you there. Earlybird Registration closes on Friday 18th July.

http://www.waternz.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=241



LinkedIn

Please join the Water New Zealand Modelling Special Interest Group.

We are seeking to use this group as a way of networking, information sharing, and updating members.

Please post on the group. We are aiming to increase engagement and interest in the group. There are 58 members with ten from outside New Zealand.

Proposed Modelling SIG 2015 Symposium

When Early part of 2015
Where Likely Wellington

Introduction

A suggestion has been made to the Modelling SIG committee that they investigate the organising of a standalone two day conference during the first part of 2015. The dates are still to be discussed but the early part of 2015 has been suggested. The Conference would be held in Wellington so as to encourage both North and South Island members.

The two days would cover the topics of collection systems and water supply systems.

NZ Keynote Speaker/s would be sourced for a speaking slot for the two days.

Depending upon the interest, two streams for papers could operate, whenever necessary. SIG Members will be encouraged to submit papers on topics relating solely to modelling within New Zealand. In addition there will be time available for Networking and there will be a Dinner held on the first night of the conference.

It is anticipated that the cost for the 2 day Conference would be \$500 excl GST.

Action

The SIG would really welcome feedback from members on whether or not they believe that a standalone Conference is a viable option to be undertaken. Please email Louisa with your comments louisa.sinclair@dcc.govt.nz

Water Supply Modelling User Group - Adelaide, Australia

Innovyze is pleased to announce the location and date of the next Water Supply Modelling User Group.

Held at SA Water offices in Adelaide, Australia on Tuesday the 5th August 2014 this event will update users on recent software updates, as well as an opportunity to hear case studies from the industry.

No formal paper is required to be prepared, however Innovyze would like to include a PDF copy of the presentation on their website after the event.

Interested if presenting? Please submit an electronic abstract (50-100 words) and presentation title by 4 July 2014 to Ann.Pugh@innovyze.com

Collection Systems User Group - Melbourne, Australia

Innovyze is pleased to announce the next Collection Systems (sewer, storm and river system modelling) User Group will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Melbourne, Australia on Thursday August 21st 2014.

This event will update users on recent software updates, as well as provide an opportunity to hear case studies from the industry. Innovyze invites all interested presenters to submit an electronic abstract (50-100 words) and presentation title by 11 July 2014 to Ann.Pugh@innovyze.com

No formal paper is required to be prepared, however Innovyze would like to include a PDF copy of the presentation on their website after the event. Interested if presenting?

Innovyze User Group Meetings New Zealand

Jeff Booth Consulting Ltd will be holding their Innovyze User Group Meetings in Wellington on 11th to 13th November 2014 which will cover the topics of water supply, collection systems and asset management. This event will update users on recent software updates, as well as provide an opportunity to hear case studies from the industry.

JBCL invites all interested presenters to submit an electronic abstract (50-100 words) and presentation title to Jeff Booth at jbcl@xtra.co.nz