

Preliminary announcement

1st Australia and New Zealand Water Quality Modelling Symposium Turning vision into action



We are excited to announce the first Australia and New Zealand Symposium on Water Quality Modelling, where experts, researchers, and professionals from Australia and New Zealand will advance the future of this important topic. This will be a workshop-oriented symposium to address how to build a modelling community, make our modelling more relevant to decision-makers and society, and advance the practice of water quality modelling. This symposium is supported by the Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc. (MSSANZ).

The water quality Special Interest Group (SIG) of MSSANZ has been holding forums over the last few MODSIM conferences, increasingly attracting numerous interested members. Through these forums and dedicated workshops, an initiative has been developed to organize a symposium with the aim of building the Australasian water quality modelling community. Previous meetings and workshops identified a vision for where we want to get to: it's now time to make plans to convert those visions into actions.

Water quality modelling plays a pivotal role in protecting our precious water resources and ensuring the health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. This Symposium will provide you with an opportunity to shape the future direction of modelling in this important area, and to build your involvement with the water quality modelling community.

When: 8 – 10 April 2024

Where: Crowne Plaza, Queenstown, New Zealand

Who should attend:

- Researchers and scientists in the field of environmental science and water quality assessment.
- Water resource managers and decision-makers.
- Engineers and professionals involved in water quality modeling and monitoring.
- Students and academics interested in advancing their knowledge in this critical area.

Membership of MSSANZ is not required for attending the meeting, although there will be opportunities to join via the Symposium.

What to expect:

- **Keynote speakers:** Three renowned experts in the field will deliver keynote addresses, providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in water quality modelling.
- **Poster Sessions:** Brief showcase of your research through poster presentations or 3-min presentation to help participants get to know each other.
- **Interactive workshops and group discussions:** Participate in hands-on workshops to develop and share documented action plans related to themes identified from previous forums and workshops. It is expected that these will be shared externally at the end of the conference and communicated to a wide audience.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow professionals, researchers, and decision-makers in the field. Share your experiences, collaborate on projects, and establish valuable contacts.
- **Beautiful venue:** The symposium will be held in April in Queenstown of New Zealand. You can expect stunning autumn colours around Lake Wakatipu, a vibrant atmosphere with cultural events happening around town, and unlimited of enjoyable outdoor activities.

Approximate cost: \$550/person (NZD, including GST) which include full 3-day symposium attendance and a conference dinner. The price will be confirmed at a later stage, once we have a better indication of the number of attendees.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

Next steps

Please provide an indication of your interest through the very brief form at <https://forms.gle/z4JtQ2C1WDacFXYEa> by 28 October to enable us to get an idea of numbers and any queries. Feel free to hand this on to others.

We plan to have a final announcement by the end of October, including a programme, final cost and registration details.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you in Queenstown and having a successful symposium between the two countries.

Regards

Conference organising committee (Sandy Elliott, Val Snow, Richard Muirhead, Linh Hoang) and the SIG committee.