

2025 CHAPTER REPORT



Each national chapter is required by IAH Rule 6.5 to provide an annual report on its activities. This helps us to report the Association's activities and is published on the IAH web site. It is also expected that, under the terms of the chapter's constitution or rules, the national committee will make an annual report to members in their country.

1. ABOUT YOU

Your name	Richard Cresswell
Email address	richardc@ecoaus.com.au
Role/responsibility held in chapter	President of IAH Australia

2. YOUR CHAPTER'S INFORMATION

Is your chapter's information correct on IAH's website: https://iah.org/groups/national-chapters Please tell us of any changes now and each time a new committee is chosen.	Please can the President's email not appear on this website? This to avoid phishing emails. President: Secretary: secretariat@iah.org.au Website: http://www.iah.org.au
Does your chapter have its own website? If so, please confirm the URL. If you do have a website, who is responsible for its management? Please provide contact details.	Yes https://www.iah.org.au/ Secretary: (secretariat@iah.org.au)
Would you be interested in IAH hosting your chapter's website/providing support? As an example, see https://germany.iah.org/.	Not at this time. Thank you, however we have invested time and money into our own website over the last couple of years and would prefer it continues as is.
Does your chapter have an elected committee? If yes, how often are elections held and how are they managed e.g. postal/email vote/at meetings?	Yes, elections are held at an Annual General Meeting at the start of the calendar year. This meeting is held online for paid members only. Voting occurs via show of hands as necessary.

3. LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

How is local membership status and trends? e.g. stable, declining, increasing.	Approximately stable at about 750 members. Member numbers fluctuate slightly with the biannual Australasian Groundwater Conference. In 2025 we reached peak numbers (close to 800 members) due to	
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	hosting the 52 nd IAH Congress in Melbourne.	
What are your challenges to recruitment? e.g. volunteer time/limitation, IAH fee rates, competition from other societies, language, etc.	Volunteer time is our biggest challenge. Maintaining corporate engagement is a primary driver of member numbers. We now contract a professional service to help manage the administration. This reduces day-to-day management responsibilities but creates some financial stress to the Chapter.	

4. YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES IN 2025

Did your chapter hold an annual meeting (AGM-style)? If so, please advise: • Date and place of meeting • Approximate number attending	The AGM was held on the 5 th of Feb 2026 online with a quorum of 38 people.	
Did your chapter hold other events e.g. technical and scientific meetings, seminars, conferences, field visits, training events? • If you have already reported these to the IAH Secretariat, only summary information is required. • If not, these please provide a summary of dates, location, number of participants, topics, etc. and how successful you felt each event was. • Do you have photos we can use? • Are your events open to IAH non-members? • Did you hold events in partnership with others e.g. a national society, company, institution?	A summary of events is found at the end of this document. • All Australian States and Territories hold independent meetings, events and other activities • Please see appended photo of the organising committee for the 52nd Congress held in Melbourne • All technical and educational events are also open to IAH non-members (some social events are reserved for members only)	

5. YOUR CHAPTER'S PLANS

Do you have any activities or tasks planned for 2025? If yes, please provide brief details, including if your plans are limited because of e.g. lack of funds or local interest/volunteer support to help	Yes, the National Chapter will be supporting: - Hydrogeoday activities - Planning for the Australasian Groundwater Conference in 2027 (Adelaide). Each State/Territory also organises technical talks and networking events,
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	reporting to, but autonomous from, the National Chapter. States and Territories are free to manage any locally derived funds and contribute to the National Chapter through volunteers and agreed contributions. We requested the Darcy Lecture for our major cities, though were told: <i>“Due to the very high number of requests for the Darcy Lecture Series, Dr. Loheide is unable to visit more than 70 proposed host sites this year. All these requests represent strong locations with excellent scientists and active groundwater research communities.”</i> We trust online presentations will be offered for our members to dial in.
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6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this section to make any additional comments/suggestions e.g. what support from IAH centrally might assist your chapter, future plans you would like to see for IAH

IAH Australia does not need any direct assistance, *per se*. We would be keen to support National Chapters' collaboration, particularly across some of the “big ticket” groundwater issues, such as groundwater management for mining; groundwater dependent ecosystems; Indigenous groundwater rights; sustainable groundwater extractions. IAH might provide a central coordinating role for such ventures.

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Summary compilation of Australian IAH Chapter events for 2025 (organised by Branch). Events ranged from 10 to over 60 attendees and most were undertaken both in-person and broadcast via Teams Meetings.

State	Date	Type	Title	Presenter	Online	Location
VIC	10-Apr-25	In person presentation	The Role of Water and Landscape in the Occupation of Qatar – a lived experience of climatic change	Dr Phil Macumber	No	Senversa, Melbourne
VIC	28-Nov-25	Online – collaboration with Hydroterra	Salinity and Groundwater impact assessment – 30 years on and what have we learnt?	Mark Hocking	Yes	Melbourne
VIC	25-Nov-25	In person	An Overview of Hydrogeology in Indonesia's Mining Environment	Alexis Valenza	no	Valenza Engineering offices, melbourne
VIC	September	In person	Darcy Lecture	Grant Ferguson	No	Melbourne Convention Centre
WA	February	AGM	AGM / Sundowner	Committee		Perth
WA	March	Talk	Evaluating the risks from nitrogen loads on mine sites	Julie Palich (Geocontam Risk Management)		Perth
WA	May	Talk	Integrating hydrogeological insights with water licencing and trading	Barkley Day (BD Water)		Perth
WA	June	Talk	Stochastic facies modelling of the Lower Burdekin Delta aquifer based on lithological interpretation from legacy boreholes.	Guillaume Pirot		Perth
WA	July	Talk	Innovation in Open Pit Mine Water Management Using Inground Barriers	Ron Colman (Sovereign Hydroseal)	yes	Perth
WA	August	Talk	Summary of the IAH's 12 international symposium on MAR	Kes Murray (WGA)		Perth
WA	August	Talk	Deep Groundwater and Deep Time	Grant Ferguson (Darcy Lecture)	yes	Perth
WA	October	Site visit (ECHN)	Visit to an active hydrogeological drill site	Rockwater		Perth
WA	November	Sundowner		Sponsored by MDP		Perth
WA	November	Student night		Various		Perth
QLD	Feb-25	Tech talk	When the Test Influences the Result: Rethinking Hydraulic Conductivity Measurements.	Dr Ali Shokri (AGE).	Live + online	Brisbane
QLD	Apr-25	Tech talk, AGM	Economic brines and how to apply hydrogeological principles and parameters to mineral reporting codes.	Ian Unsworth (Umwelt).	Live + online	Brisbane

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State	Date	Type	Title	Presenter	Online	Location
QLD	May-25	Tech talk	Developments in Monitoring and Modelling Saline Intrusion in Coastal Aquifers.	Professor Adrian Butler (Imperial College, UK)	Live	Brisbane
QLD	Jul-25	Social event	Trivia night at Hellcat Maggies	-	Live	Brisbane
QLD	Aug-25	Tech talk	Integrating remote sensing, climate data and machine learning to quantify irrigation water use at field to regional scale.	Dr. Sayantan Majumdar (Desert Research Institute, USA)	Live + online	Brisbane
QLD	Sep-25	Darcy Lecture	Deep groundwater and deep time	Dr Grant Ferguson (USA)	Live + broadcast to Townsville	Brisbane
QLD	Oct-25	Social event	Student-Industry mixer night	-	Live	Brisbane
QLD	Dec-25	Social event	Christmas party	-	Live	Brisbane
SA	Feb-25	Tech Talk	The Invisible Process: Estimating Recharge to the Groundwater to inform water resources managers in a changing climate.	Simone Gelsinari	No	Adelaide
SA	Apr-25	Tech Talk	From State to Commonwealth to State again – some reflections on groundwater	Peter Baker	No	Adelaide
SA	Apr-25	Tech Talk	Achieving Sustainable and Prosperous Futures for Self-Supplied Remote Communities	Simone Stewart	No	Adelaide
SA	Jul-25	Tech Talk	Novel instrumentation technologies for streambed / groundwater interaction	Eddie Banks	No	Adelaide
SA	Aug-25	Tech Talk	Linking aquifer depressurisation to mound spring wetland ecological community persistence	Jarrah Muller	No	Adelaide
SA	Sep-25	Darcy Lecture	Groundwater and the Anthropocene	Grant Ferguson	Live	Adelaide
SA	Dec-25	Social event	End of year networking function	various	No	Adelaide
NSW	Feb-25	Tech Talk	Hydrogeochemical Interactions and Dynamics of Fluoride and Arsenic Transport from Groundwater Aquifers to Streams	Elys Mwigamba (Tanzania)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Mar-25	Tech Talk	Linking climate to groundwater recharge - the view from underground	Prof Andy Baker, (UNSW)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Apr-25	Tech Talk – Presidential Address	Characterising groundwater discharge using drone imagery	Dr Richard Cresswell, (ELA)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	May-25	Tech Talk	Inground groundwater barriers	Ron Colman (Sovereign Hydro)	Live + online	Sydney

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State	Date	Type	Title	Presenter	Online	Location
NSW	Jun-25	Tech Talk	Unmasking groundwater signals in an urban estuary	David Harris (Hydroview Consulting)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Jul-25	Tech Talk	Case Study 1: Analysis of tricky pump test data. Case study 2: Groundwater level monitoring beneath a surface water body	James Dommissie (GHD)	Online only	Sydney
NSW	Aug-25	Panel Discussion	Hydrogeology issues in NSW	Fabienne d'Hautefeuille (DCCEEW), Graham Hawkes (ADE), Tingting Liu (WSP) and Prof Andy Baker (UNSW). Hosted by Angus McFarlane (BMT)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Sep-25	Darcy Lecture	Deep Groundwater and Deep Time	Prof Grant Ferguson (University of Saskatchewan)		Sydney
NSW	Oct-25	Student Night	1. Classifying drip water responses in karst vadose zone: Insights from Yarrangobilly, Australia	1. Danyang Sun (PhD, UNSW)	Live + online	Sydney
			2. Soil Moisture and Vegetation Are Key Predictors of Precipitation-driven Groundwater Recharge at Australia's National Groundwater Recharge Observing System (NGROS) Sites	2. Akhilesh Kumar (PhD, UNSW)		
			3. Integrating karstification in large-scale hydrological simulations	3. Nane Maria Weber Carpintier (PhD Dresden University of Technology/UNSW)		
			4. Evaluating pond recharge potential in the Ramganga Basin with data-driven modelling approaches	4. Yaggesh Kumar (PhD, Flinders University/UNSW)		
NSW	Nov-25	Tech Talk	The role of evidence and groundwater expertise to support decisions of the Land and Environment Court of NSW.	Sarah Bish (Commissioner of Land and Environment Court)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Dec-25	Tech Talk	A Hobby that Grew Legs - the role of groundwater in carbon fluxes	Associate Prof Martin Andersen (UNSW)	Live + online	Sydney
NSW	Dec-25	Social event	Festive Season Dinner	various	Live only	Sydney



Figure 1 (Most of) The Organising Committee for the 52nd IAH Congress held in Melbourne Australia. 15-19 September 2025