

VISITING ERSKINE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Visitor Name: <i>Professor David R. Maidment</i>	
Home Institution: University of Texas at Austin	
School/Department visited: <i>Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management</i>	
Dates of Visit: 14 February to 14 April 2018	
Please give a brief summary of your undergraduate teaching contributions and any reflections you may have on this experience	I presented a graduate course called “Data Integration to Support Water Modelling” to 17 students, 11 from the University of Canterbury and 6 from Lincoln University. I gave six three-hour lectures, after the first 5 of which I gave detailed class assignments. The students prepared a term paper on a subject of their choosing, and presented it in oral and written form. The students from Lincoln University did a special assignment related to the Blue Cliffs station in South Canterbury. The course is summarized at: http://www.caee.utexas.edu/prof/maidment/Canterbury/Outline/WATR404_604.htm
Please give details of any postgraduate or research seminars/workshops that you delivered or participated in.	There was a two-day workshop on 10-11 April 2018 called “Towards a Water Data Infrastructure for New Zealand” associated with the course to engage the students with professionals in the field and to enable them to participate in defining a vision for the future of this field. There were 34 attendees at this workshop, including Dwane Young, Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC, who presented a keynote lecture. The workshop content is summarized at: http://www.waterways.ac.nz/dataworkshop.shtml
Please give any comments if you feel able to on the Department’s/School’s overall teaching programme, particularly any comparisons you may feel able to draw between our University standards and other universities you may be familiar with.	The course had students from diverse backgrounds including chemistry, biology, geology, environmental science, and civil engineering. I used the common theme of geographic and water information systems to create a common foundation among these students. I teach a related graduate course at the University of Texas at Austin, and I felt that the UC students were well prepared technically to undertake the class. One thing that I particularly enjoyed was the interaction between the Canterbury and Lincoln campuses. I received my undergraduate degree in 1971 in Agricultural Engineering from UC and what was then Lincoln College, so I enjoyed going back and forth to meet with students at Lincoln and to teach the class at Canterbury. I think this joint association of the two universities with Lincoln connecting knowledge of agriculture to UC’s coverage of the more traditional disciplines, is a real strength of the program of the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management.
Please list any external visits to other centres/universities you undertook during your Fellowship”.	During the final week of my Fellowship, and after the 2-day workshop, I visited Wellington and participated in the Te Punaha Matatini annual hui at Victoria University, and in a meeting presenting the results of the course and workshop at the Department of Statistics, organized by Alison Stringer.
You are welcome to make any other comments about your experience as an Erskine Fellow.	I want to record my appreciation for the wonderful hospitality of the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management, including the Director, Prof Jenny Webster-Brown, the Administrator, Suellen Knopick, and the Tutor, Julie Clarke. They did all they could to make my visit successful and convivial, and I much appreciated their help. I would like also to record my thanks to Joanne Noble-Nesbitt of the Erskine Fellowship program for her help with my visit. This is a very well organized program.