



# International Association of Geomorphologists

## 11<sup>th</sup> IAG International Conference on Geomorphology

Christchurch, New Zealand, 2–6 February 2026

and

## ICG2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program

### “Methods for assessing geomorphic processes and change”

Christchurch, New Zealand 30, January–7 February 2026

## Report

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The 11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG) and the ICG2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program were a tremendous success and provided an excellent avenue for early-career researchers to present our work, be exposed to new approaches in geomorphology, and connect with established and fellow young geomorphologists from across the globe.

### **Young Geomorphologist Training Program: Cass Fieldtrip (30 Jan)**

The Young Geomorphologists Training Program started with a preconference Cass fieldtrip in the Southern Alps led by Sam McColl, Peter Almond, Sarah McSweeney, Justin Rogers, and Carol Smith. We visited different geomorphic sites including the outwash plain in Sheffield, where we were able to grab a Kiwi traditional meat pie (tasty!), the limestone tors of the Castle Hill Basin, the scarp of the Porter’s Pass Fault, the glaciated valleys of the Waimakariri River, alluvial fans in Cass and Arthur’s Pass, and a landslide and fault scarp along the Acheron River.

The fieldtrip provided an overview of the geologic setting of the Southern Alps and highlighted the role of tectonics and climate in shaping these geomorphic features.



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*Figure 1. Cass fieldtrip participants near the Castle Hill limestone tors while the fieldtrip leaders discussed the geologic setting of the Southern Alps.*



*Figure 2. Peter Almond showing the soil profiles of a landslide along the Acheron River.*

## **Geomorphic Change Detection (GCD) Workshop and Geoquiz Night (31 Jan–1 Feb)**

The GCD software workshop was held at the School of Earth and Environment, University of Canterbury. The GCD software is a free and open-source tool that performs digital elevation model (DEM) differencing analyses to quantify areal and volumetric change. What makes this software



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particularly useful is the seamless integration of uncertainty quantification, data visualization, and statistical analysis.

Currently, the GCD software works as a plugin in ArcGIS only, but the developers are planning to create one for QGIS. While I use both QGIS and ArcGIS, I am looking forward to the release of the QGIS plugin, especially since it is free and open source.

The Geoquiz Night was another highlight of the ICG and was held at the University of Canterbury Club. It was a pub-style quiz on geomorphology and geography topics. Our group, the Podzols (inspired by the soil lecture during the Cass fieldtrip), placed third. It was a great opportunity to meet other young geomorphologists and enjoy a relaxed evening before the conference.



*Figure 3. The Podzols team posing their chosen prize for winning third place during the Geoquiz Night.*

### ICG Conference and Mid-Conference Workshops (2–6 Feb)

The ICG Conference was held at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, which was an excellent venue. I particularly enjoyed the keynote talks by Dan Hikuroa, who highlighted how geomorphology is closely intertwined with Māori culture and beliefs, and by Pascale Biron, who discussed the importance of providing accommodation space for rivers and translating geomorphic research into policy making.

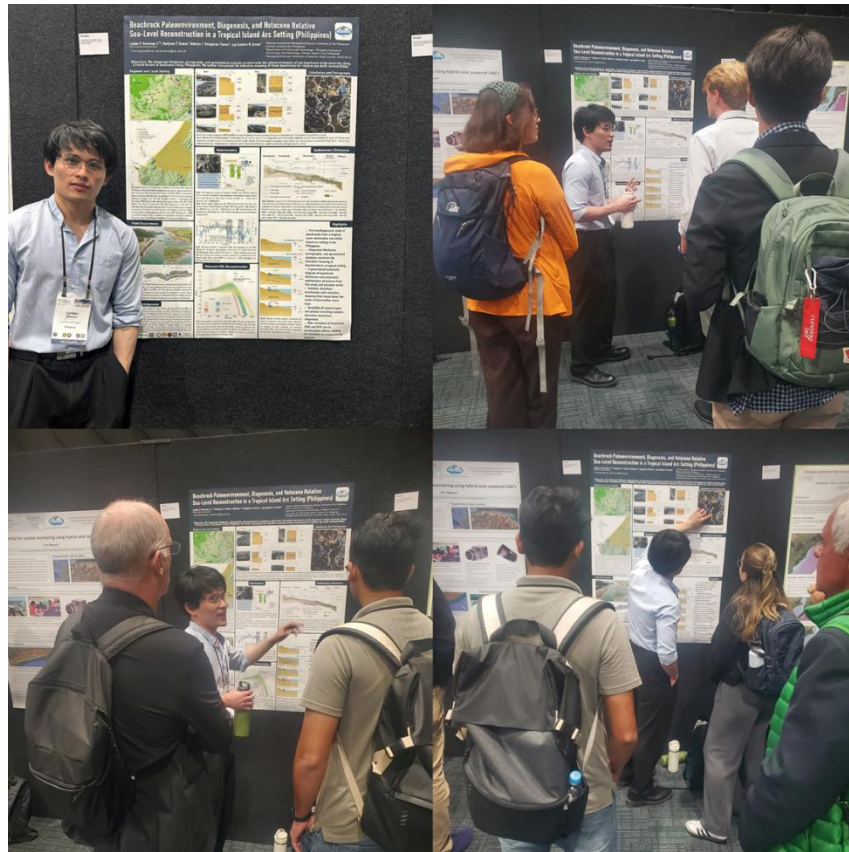
Moving between venues to catch talks during the parallel sessions was quite an adrenaline rush. There were too many interesting topics to choose from, so prioritization and planning were definitely put to the test during the conference. The poster sessions felt a bit short, but this was understandable given the high number of presentations.

I presented a chapter of my master's thesis during a poster session titled "Beachrock Diagenesis, Paleoenvironment, and Holocene Relative Sea-Level Reconstruction in a Tropical Island Arc Setting (Philippines)." In this work, we integrated lithofacies, petrographic, and geochemical analyses to interpret the paleoenvironment, constrain the indicative meaning of beachrocks as a sea-level



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indicator, and provide implications for Holocene relative sea-level changes. Overall, I was glad that several participants visited the poster, asked questions, and provided valuable feedback on the work.



**Figure 4.** Photos during Poster Session 3 at the ICG 2026, where I presented our work titled *Beachrock Diagenesis, Paleoenvironment, and Holocene Relative Sea-Level Reconstruction in a Tropical Island Arc Setting (Philippines)*.

I also participated in two mid-conference workshops on peer review and consulting careers. Ann Rowan, the Editor-in-Chief of *JGR–Earth Surface*, provided an overview of what happens during the journal review process—from manuscript submission to the final decision. She also discussed the use of generative AI in manuscript writing, its potential misuse, and how editorial boards are currently evaluating it.

The consulting careers night was also interesting as it provided insights into several career options after a PhD. Seven panel members with diverse backgrounds and career stages in academia, consulting, and government shared their experiences and offered advice to young geomorphologists on navigating their career paths.



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### Mid-Conference Field Trip: Coastal Geomorphology of the Northern Canterbury Coastline (4 Feb)

I joined the mid-conference fieldtrip on the coastal geomorphology of Northern Canterbury led by Sarah McSweeney and Sophie Horton. We visited Gore Bay, Cathedral Gully, the river mouth of the Hurunui River, Amberley Beach, and Waikuku Beach.

The fieldtrip provided exposure to a range of coastal features including mixed sand-and-gravel beaches, coastal cliffs, estuaries, and coastal dunes. They also discussed beach management issues and how local communities are involved in mitigating coastal erosion.



*Figure 5. Fieldtrip participants at the exposures of coastal cliffs in South Gore Bay.*

I would like to thank the organizing committee of the 11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG) and the ICG2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program. It was a delightful and memorable experience to participate in this event, and the talks and workshops provided valuable insights as I move forward in pursuing a PhD soon. Most importantly, I had the opportunity to meet many inspiring young and experienced geomorphologists from across the globe who share a common interest in advancing the field of geomorphology.