

FIG Working Week 2025 - Brisbane

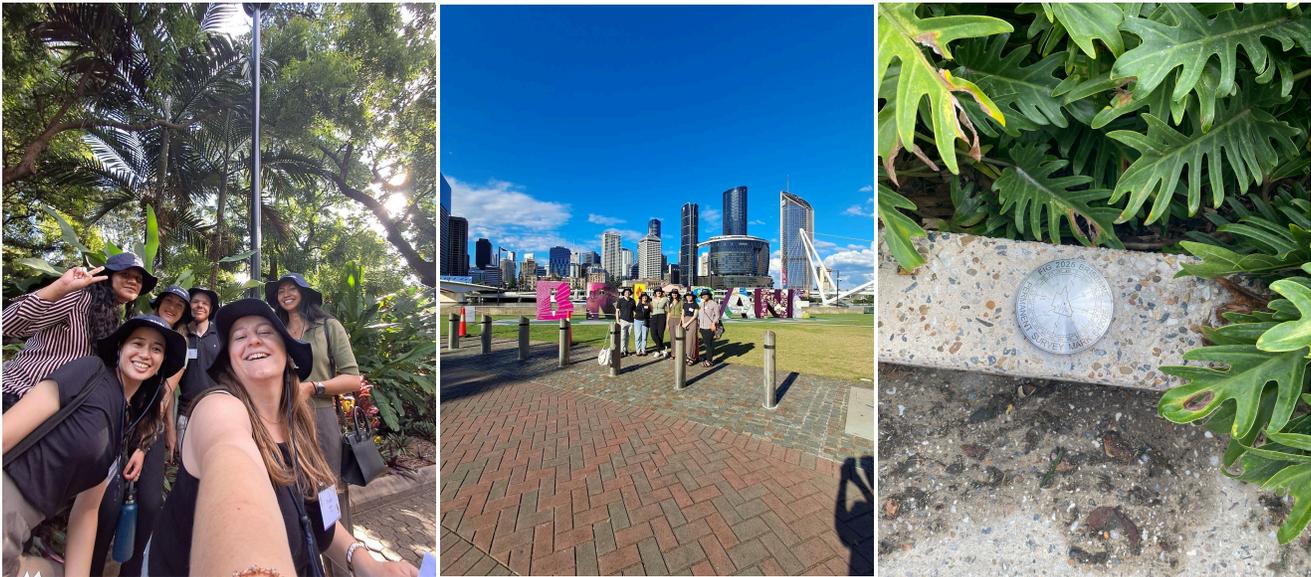
Kia ora,

My name is Devon Allen. I am a surveyor from Wellington, New Zealand, and the current Survey & Spatial New Zealand Young Professionals Chair. I was the very grateful recipient of a FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grant award to attend FIG Working Week 2025 in Brisbane, Australia. I arrived in warm Brisbane after a short flight from chilly New Zealand, excited for a week of networking, learning and inspiration.

Before the Working Week was the FIG Young Surveyors Network Conference, hosted at Queensland University of Technology. The conference's theme was "Next-Gen Geospatial Professionals: Driving a Digitally Enabled Future", and it was fantastic to hear guest speakers from around the world discussing the rapidly evolving world we live in, and how we as young surveyors can contribute and lead. Young surveyors from across the world were in attendance, and it was fantastic to meet new friends and catch up with old friends from the University of Otago. Networking with the other grant winners was also awesome as we accepted our grant certificates. I also enjoyed learning about the work the FIG YSN is doing, in regional spaces, in mentoring and volunteering spaces, and internationally as part of the FIG ecosystem.



I had two highlights from the YSN conference. The first was the experts lunch, where a range of surveying and geospatial experts came along to discuss their careers and expertise over a casual lunch setting. It was amazing to learn from such talented professionals and hear first-hand about their career journeys - a lot had involvement with FIG and the YSN in their careers. The second highlight was the charity event, which involved a scavenger hunt around Brisbane. It was a fantastic way to get to know the other young surveyors, as well as get outside and see the city. We also found a few survey marks, which is always exciting as a cadastral surveyor! After the scavenger hunt we enjoyed drinks and karaoke at the pub, which was a fantastic way to unwind and continue to get to know everyone.



The FIG Working Week itself was an incredible experience. The theme of the week was “Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation”, and we enjoyed amazing technical sessions under this theme. I attended a range of sessions, from the FIG Newcomers session to exciting plenary sessions on a variety of topics. I especially enjoyed the cadastral sessions, in particular the Commission 7 technical session on Women’s Land Administration, where it was amazing to see women's involvement with titling processes across different jurisdictions, and efforts to get more women involved with surveying and geospatial as a career. I also enjoyed sessions on indigenous land, as it was interesting to see that other countries experience similar challenges to New Zealand.



Again, the Working Week was a fantastic opportunity to network and meet new people, and catchup with old connections from New Zealand. The social calendar associated with the conference was a highlight, and allowed for connection outside of the conference. I attended the Commission 7 and 8 dinner, and it was amazing to meet so many people with an interest in cadastral surveying. The Conference Gala Dinner was held at the Brisbane Town Hall, and was a fantastic night of entertainment, fun and dancing the night away! A fantastic way to conclude the conference. Finally, I was able to introduce myself to the FIG General Assembly the next day and express my gratitude to the FIG Foundation and how much I enjoyed the conference.



My sincerest thank you to the FIG Foundation for the opportunity to attend the FIG Working Week 2025 - it was an experience I will never forget. I cannot wait to get further involved with FIG and the amazing work that they do in the near future. And to all young surveyors reading this report - please apply for the FIG Young Surveyors Grant - the opportunity to attend Working Week is incredible, and I found it beneficial not only for my technical career but my leadership career, so definitely get amongst it!

*Devon Allen
New Zealand*