



Water Research Group
Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
North-West University, Potchefstroom

07/Sep/2018

WRG represented at IsoEcol 2018

Dr. Rachel Welicky, one of WRG post-doc fellows, represented our group at IsoEcol 2018 (11th International Conference on the Applications of Stable Isotope Techniques to Ecological Studies), hosted by Universidad de Andrés Bello in Viña Del Mar, Chile. The conference was the first one to be held in South America and took place from 30th July to 3rd August, with 275 scientists from 37 countries. It was a full house, two weeks before the conference no more registrations were accepted!



The 11th IsoEcol edition had an exciting scientific programme with four plenaries, more than 100 oral presentations, and about 125 posters. It also counted on the contributions of key isotope ecologists: Dr. Brian Fry and Dr. Marilyn Fogel.



Dinner with Dr. Fry

LATEST NEWS

Dr. Welicky performed the oral presentation entitled “Do ‘tongue-biters’ bite their hosts? The use of stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analyses to describe the foraging strategies of fish parasitic cymothoid isopods with respect to attachment site”. According to her, it was very well received by the audience, as people are always intrigued by these particular parasites! Also, since parasites do not fit the usual patterns of stable isotope fractionation, conference-goers were curious about their place in food webs and how to incorporate them into food web models properly.

The quality and range in stable isotope science presented was fantastic! She told us that discussions were “from anthropology to Tasmanian devils”. Viña del Mar was a great locality for the conference, a clean and safe city situated along the coast. Although, it was winter, and just as chilly there as it was in Potchefstroom, SA!



However, it was not only about Science! It is not worth it to take a long flight to Chile and not experience the area. Dr. Welicky went on the tour of the Casablanca Wine Valley and tasted many types Chilean red and white, and had a lovely lunch at one of the wine farms.



The IsoEcol 2018 was the most friendly and relaxed meeting she has ever attended. And now she is just waiting to go to the next one in 2020 in Vienna!

Thank you, Dr. Welicky, for sharing your experience and representing the WRG in the South American continent!