Hi everyone! I am a Researcher and Project Coordinator for IPWEAQ’s water directorate, qldwater. I have a bachelor’s of Environmental Management and Business Management and have been in my current role for over a year. Prior to working at qldwater I was in the Environment and Engineering team at Lion.

When I am not undertaking research into water and sewerage utilities or visiting the remote councils I enjoy getting out on the mountains for rock climbing. My weekends are often spent out climbing in the Glasshouse Mountains or down south in the various mountains around the Scenic Rim.

I have been rock climbing for close to three years and met a number of my close friends through the sport (trusting someone with your life builds strong bonds). I find climbing a great sport because it is not only physically challenging but very mentally challenging. The aspect of trying to solve a puzzle using your own body many metres off the ground to get to the top of a climb is strangely appealing to me. Once reaching the top of a climb no matter where you are the view is always rewarding.

I competed at the Queensland state sport climbing titles in 2018, and apart from injuring myself on the second climb and having to bow out, I also discovered that competing is not as fulfilling as outdoor climbing (competition climbs is undertaken indoors on set routes).

There are many forms of rock climbing such as alpine, mountaineering, sport, traditional and bouldering. I predominately do sport or traditional climbing. Sport is where a route has been ‘developed’ by other climbers through bolting.

Traditional climbing follows along the path of being aimed at adventuring. For traditional climbs you carry your own ‘protection’ (cams, nuts and hexes) you place into natural cracks or crevices on the rock wall as you climb.

Within all styles of climbing there is a grading system to help a potential climber know if it’s outside their abilities. In Australia the grades are a simple numbering system 1 being the easiest and 38 being the hardest completed climb in the world. To put it into perspective the Kangaroo Point stairs are roughly a grade 3 and a ladder would be a grade 8. The mark of achievement is climbing a 20 – this grade means you can generally find climbs anywhere you go. I am at the stage where I can climb most mountains that interest me and enjoy looking for new heights to conquer.

Thanks for reading up about one of my hobbies, I hope to see you out on the rock one day!