

In conversation with

Lauren Brown

Lauren is a farm girl, born and raised in Greytown in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands. She holds an undergraduate degree in Mathematics (Stellenbosch University), attained her Biomathematics Honours with distinction (Stellenbosch University), and is currently finishing her MSc degree in Applied Mathematics through SACEMA.

**"Be the woman you would look up to."
-Unknown**



Which three words would you use to describe working in epidemiological modelling and why?

Challenging, advantageous and, ultimately, rewarding. There is always something new to learn in epidemiological modelling, and while it may be challenging in the beginning, it's always worth learning a new skill! For the lack of a better word, advantageous. The modelling world gives rise to the most incredible connections, whether it's in your field or not, from your country or one across the globe, there are always interesting people to meet! Last, but certainly not least, is being able to apply well established, and perhaps new, methods to real-life problems and have the chance to potentially improve the lives of others.

What was the best advice you've received and from whom?

My parents took wise words from Desmond Tutu and always ask: "How do you eat an elephant?", my learnt response being: "one bite at a time". I think this is especially important when things may seem daunting and overwhelming, it only takes small actions to make the seemingly impossible, possible.

How do you fill your cup?

I am an avid reader and you will never see me travelling without a book in hand! I love spending time with my family, dogs included, and friends – love and laughter always makes my cup overflow. Adventuring at the sea, in the berg or bush when I can is certainly high up on the list.



@lauren_brown_98



Lauren Brown