

Australasian Weeds Conference Travel Award Report

19th Australasian Weeds Conference 1-4 September 2014, Hobart, Australia

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I greatly appreciate the support provided by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) enabling me to attend and present at the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in Hobart. The 19AWC conference exceeded my expectations and delivered the professional development and networking opportunities I hoped for.

I found the keynote presentations were excellent throughout. They were both enlightening and visually engaging, particularly from Professor Hopper with his globe hopping studies of Mediterranean weeds in beautiful locales. And before hearing from Professor Simberloff I was not aware of some of the social implications of targeting non native weeds.

The concurrent sessions were very well divided to provide presentations of professional and personal interest throughout the conference. For me, aquatic and environmental weeds and community engagement streams were of most interest with many relevant topics available. It was very interesting to see the development of innovative detection methods for environmental weeds in remote locations, including sniffer dogs, drones and imaging methods. I liked seeing examples of community volunteer successes, and I hope to be involved with 'adventure volunteering' on the Franklin River someday.

I enjoyed giving my presentation 'Managing a priority outlier infestation of Cabomba...' at the end of Day 1 of the conference. The entire session 'Advances in Aquatic Weed Management' provided a series of complimentary presentations, and it was fantastic to meet and reconnect with members of the relatively small family of aquatic weed managers and researchers.

Hobart as a conference destination was beautiful. The harbour location was lovely and made for very enjoyable out of conference strolls and dinners. During a conference break I was able to take a walk through the botanic gardens, where I also had a nice conversation about gardening, weeds and the conference with Tino from the ABC's Gardening Australia program.

Overall this was an excellent conference experience for me. I was impressed by the positive community of people I encountered who are focusing on solutions for the many weed challenges.

I thank CAWS once more for providing me with this valuable opportunity.

