

Henry Rutherford is a threatening processes ecologist, with experience across a range of environmental disciplines including marine parks, coastal protection, fire management, and biosecurity. He has a technical interest in plant evolution in the context of the Darwinian theory of natural selection, which has shaped his academic approach towards invasive species management. With a progressive appreciation of globalisation Henry works to impress the realised situation of plant naturalisations, and he would like one day to work abroad in countries where Australian natives are weeds, to help balance this perspective.



Henry sits as secretary on the executive committee of the Weed Management Society South Australia (WMSSA). He was formerly employed as the National Opuntoid Cacti Coordinator as part of the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Program. Henry is now employed with Natural Resource Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges as the Urban Animal and Plant Control Support Officer. These combined roles create a pivotal networking function across the weed management profession within Adelaide and wider South Australian regions. Henry works closely with environmental legislation, plant declaration policies, and statutory compliance.

The CAWS travel award will be used to assist him in reaching Perth to present an oral presentation at the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference. Henry recalls that at the end of the national WoNS coordinator program Western Australia was proving to be a new and very attentive audience to cacti biological control and he is expecting an attendance from a Western Australian audience still interested in cacti biological control. Since the end of the WoNS program Henry's work with cacti biological control has continued at a local level and he will present a talk titled 'Pairing biological control species: Cochineal insects *Dactylopius* (Hemiptera: Dactylopiidae) with prickly pears *Opuntia* (Cactaceae) within the South Australian Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges that will report on the field trials and observed trends in the associations of *Dactylopius* insects with opuntoid cacti, that resulted in the release program for two species of *Dactylopius* insects, onto six new target *Opuntia* species within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges natural resource management region.