**Dr Lizzie Wandrag**

**Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology, University of Tasmania**

Lizzie is a Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology in the School of Natural Sciences, University of Tasmania. Lizzie joined the University in December 2023, coming from a position as Lecturer in Global Change Biology at the University of York in her (native) UK.

Lizzie has a PhD in Ecology, which she conducted at the Bio-Protection Research Centre at Lincoln University in Aotearoa, New Zealand, in collaboration with the CSIRO, Australia. Her PhD looked at the role of species interactions in determining the invasive success of Australian *Acacia* in New Zealand. Lizzie then undertook a series of research positions with the University of Rice in the US, the Netherlands Institute for Ecology, the University of Canberra, and the University of New England, Armidale. She continues to work on the causes and consequences of invasion in diverse systems and from a range of perspectives. In addition to ongoing work with *Acacia*, Lizzie is interested in invasion into grassland ecosystems, and the role of plant-soil interactions in influencing invasive success and impacts.

At this year’s conference, Lizzie co-organised with Dr Christina Birnbaum the Forum: ‘*A belowground world of opportunity: harnessing plant-soil interactions to better understand weed establishment, impact and management’*. In addition to facilitating Forum discussions, Lizzie presented work conducted in the ACT looking at the role of soil biota in determining the establishment and subsequent invasion of non-native pasture grasses.

