

2017 SA Community Landcare Conference - Feedback received 13 September 2017:

This is an unedited compilation of the hand-written feedback provided by participants as they left the Conference.

What have the conference highlights been for you? WHY?

Youth Environmental Leaders Program

Circular Economy

Circular Economy – jobs of the future not created yet. Current operations will have to change/ adapt to survive. Because this is thought provoking.

Proactive land use

Youth and Aboriginal Engagement – these groups need to be considered more.

Networking and hearing all about what other groups are doing was inspiring and reminding me why I do my job.

Circular Economy

Breadth of talks/ sessions to help engage with youth.

Importance of listening, being positive.

Being creative in measuring outcomes.

Keith Bradby – Gondwana Link

Jodie Bricout – circular Economy

Saskia Gerhardy – Youth/ Yakka

Paul Ryan – The future

Melanie Maigspanz – Biodynamic Farming

Tour A was outstanding, especially visiting Tom Robinsons property

Diversity of keynotes, yet also extremely relevant.

Speed dating – not working: wasn't keen beforehand but found it to be excellent.

Learning about projects from around the state

Awards

Networking session

Aboriginal integration

The focus on N&Y region.

Engagement & aboriginal groups and their positivity. Isobel's smile

Clare high school play

Tom Robinson – his enthusiasm & passion for the changes he is implanting on the farm.

Jodie Bricout – Circular economy – new concept.

Paul Ryan – his networking ideas are inspirational.

Networking – new opportunities

Getting people to question their thinking

Getting inspired to try new things.

Networking and connecting with this great team. It has been great to see what others have been doing.

Network talk, Paul Ryan – lots of food for thought with evidence.

Awards night – great for us to celebrate the wins.
Networking generally, made several new contracts.
'Caring for Country' – holistic innovative approach
Some excellent key note speakers
Keith Bradby – Paul Ryan
Relevant to my work.
Fossils – another layer in our environment.
Keith Bradby – inspiring & irreverent as always – long lasting.
Tom Robinson – innovative, but also see his system as a compromise.
Key note speakers have been great – quite thought provoking and inspiring.
The plenary sessions were great & so diverse.
The youth engagement & presentations – they spoke so well.
The level of Aboriginal attendance – brilliant.
All of keynotes. So inspiring. Must think bigger, trans-formatively and use our networks better.
The field trip; learning about the wealth of resources that may be tapped. Vast depth of enthusiasm and energy of people of all ages in particular youth eagerness to share and collaborate, to help, that there is funding if one knows how to find it and release it.
Meeting new people and ideas.
Youth and aboriginal engagement – because it was genuine and I learnt from these participants.
Leanne was awesome.
Tour E: I didn't realise how many dinosaur remnants we had in SA.
ALT winning the premiers award as I have been a volunteer there for 13 years.
Circular economy presentation
Tom Robinson's presentation
Catching up with people.
Key note speakers – thought provoking and challenging, very different topics and very approachable.
Tom Robinson – Soil Health
Way of the future. Savings costs with fertilisers/ chemicals. 75% decrease in cost.
Worms back in soil/ moisture.
Innovative methods.

What's one take away message from the conference that you will apply to your work?

Promote/ communicate what you/ the community are doing: For increased participation, funding opportunities and educate wider community.
Listen to community input
Partnerships and collaborate.
Importance of co-design.
Thinking outside usual channels of engagement, strategies, actions, channels – be bold and creative.
Importance of meaningful engagement, especially with young people.
Tips for engagement with aboriginal groups.
Think big
Impact and the importance of networking – Paul Ryan
Broadening scope of contacts into sustainable ag area
Get on with it and look for alternative funding.
Rethinking the way we do things.
I need to do more.
It has been inspiring and refreshing.
Be more deliberate about my network strategy
That it's a good thing to take time to build networks and work on partnerships

Utilise the network

Build on dialogue

Develop transient partnerships

Government can't solve issues. Informal networks are more likely to cause change and connect more people to solve problems.

Networks are really important – big green hairy ideas over beers!

Good to hear examples of circular economy but long way to go.

Go big or go home!

Partnerships are key to achieve this.

Think big, transformative, differently.

We are not alone, people are willing and ready to lend a hand – ASK!

Partnerships and collaboration, incl with Aboriginal communities and youth engagement.

The power of big vision and networks.

Following up a number of collaboration opportunities.

Loved the message about circular economy

Community engagement is very important.

Rewilding – could this be the way

Landcare is evolving to be more than on-ground projects and capacity building as we knew it, it is harder to say what it is, I don't know if that is a good or bad thing.

Landcare can work but needs to change

Use networks to realise my vision of improving soil health for my and future generations health.

What's one thing that you would like the organisers to retain for the next conference?

Big thinking/ Innovation. Pillars/ themes throughout.

High school performance.

Great field trip.

Speed dating

Great plenary speakers.

Inspiring speakers

The four themes – report back on progress and explore in more depth.

Good mix of types of sessions

Also mix of big picture and on the ground info and ideas.

Leanne Muffet as facilitator – she is brilliant.

Speed networking.

The sharing of events/ projects.

Speed dating

Combined awards night with conference

Range of key notes useful – keeping speeches at social occasions short.

Aboriginal content ongoing i.e. key note topic.

Speed networking – good idea – could be executed better.

Diverse program.

Key speakers/ landcare stories/ projects.

A great celebration of many achievements, great support & encouragement/ acknowledgement of each other and by the Minister & CE etc.

Special effort to involve Aboriginal people and youth.

Top quality, inspirational keynote speakers for plenary sessions.

I like the speed networking

Diversity in topics and presenters.

Lovely to have fresh air, large windows, nature nearby.

Challenging/ thought provoking speakers.
Interactions with local school kids – they are our future.
Leanne – the facilitator.
Youth and local involvement.
Keep thinking outside the square
Speed networking so many messages of future through networking and collaboration.

What's one thing you would like the organisers to change for the next conference?

Lots of government employees – need more community and private business included. This could be because the cost is expensive. Also, city/ rural local councils invited?
Larger venue
Room/ venue for easy or easier to move around and network, have conversations.
Venue with screens you can see the bottom of.
Reduce waste – no plastic water bottles, lolly bags etc. I hope the lanyards will be used next time.
Less tight packed program
Bit more space between day program & evening events
Would've been great to have more landholders at the conference & presenting (maybe in partnership with staff if needed)
Having full program, a little earlier so that I take time to pre-read abstracts (more of a reflection of how busy I am than anything else)
Better area for posters
Hard to read PowerPoints at golf club.
When we break up into different groups there is a problematic noise issue from adjoining rooms, especially when one group has a video playing.
Limiting the amount of time the facilitators talked in some of the speed networking session (not all)
There was a lot of content on day one, I know it's hard to try to get so much in a limited timeframe, so I appreciate the difficulties.
Venue was too squeezey at times.
Venue cold on 3rd day
Lunch of varying quality.
Bigger venue – you only going to get more and more participants.
No plastic water bottles.
More organisation of speed networking. Better way to find groups.
Involve politicians in a more positive interactive session. Involve them in an activity that lets them put their point forward but sow them the innovators. Involve them in discussions (I know they are so scared of that).
Less question and answer session end of 2nd day.
Reduce number of small community breakout sessions & give them longer to speak. Far too rushed for them to do justice to their hard work & no question time.
The size of the venue and price scaling of tickets to allow more volunteers & community members to attend.
Try and put more youth (and Aboriginal) components on program – keynote or dinner speaker.
What about the other cultures (although possibly not involved in formal landcare – but if the governor has a garden and bees...
Special attention to ensuring 'distinguished guests' (aka politicians) do not wreck the programme.
Speed networking needs to allow more time for each discussion so perhaps halve the number of topics/ themes for each person and double the time allocated for each discussion.
More salad. Nuts as part of snacks.

Reduce your sessional speakers to 3 per session. They were great but presenters were cut short.
A session on kids presenting on what engages them would be great.
Venue was hard to see what was on the screens.
Improved technical capacity and conservation i.e. maybe programs on USB rather than printed, no plastic bottles, tap water is great, mobile app.
Move screens higher as can't see them.
Concurrent sessions to far apart to make efficient use of arranging valuable speakers with technical skills and knowledge for the future of landcare. Missed some sessions due to set up of the rooms.

Any other comments?

Live streaming for those who can't travel (twitter comments).
Great event. Fantastic few days celebrating, sharing info/ projects and lessons learnt.
For concurrent sessions – too many. I think I missed so much good stuff.
First one I've been to and you've won me.
Connect with landscape architecture, urban design and planning (esp. landscape architects) – we can advocate for you.
Fantastic again.
Like the idea of regional landcare conference.
Great conference.
Great conference, feel it's made a difference.
Well done.
David Speirs' absence/ apology was a real shame.
Very sorry to have missed out on field tours
Delightful to have His Excellency the Governor of SA attend awards night.
Diversity
Many voices
Caring for country
Awards finalists – were notified too late. There should be much more notice. Why weren't certificate given to finalists at dinner? Finalists made the trip at late notice and weren't even given a certificate.
Photo opportunity missed/ promotion for groups/ individuals.
Don't try & fit too much in. We rushed around in our jobs daily. So nice to relax and chat with networks & have time to listen & take in messages & hear stories.
Great job at all. Big logistical job. Thanks.
The last panel session on the second day could have finished 15min earlier to allow more time in between the end of the proceedings and the beginning of the awards dinner.
Can't see the lower half of the slides from the back of the room.
Great job by organising. Cheers.
Please give much more notice and publicity for landcare awards. Use social media much more – run training at conference.
Run twitter feed/ highlight social media – helps governments see what's happening (e.g. Sandy Pitcher tweeted all thru awards but almost no one else was.)
I totally loved my involvement in the creation, and bringing to reality, of this conference and the conference in itself. It would be a real privilege to contribute to the next conference planning and organisation.
Thank you – great conference.
Great conference.
Maybe notify local accommodation of the conference times so they can be a little more accommodating. Discovery Park was NOT.
Speed dating was a good idea but most of the facilitators I had spent lots of time talking and there wasn't that much time for networking – good idea but needs work.

Meals were cold – might need to work on that.

Terrific facilitator.

Come to Mundulla – next conf. venue.

Lovely to see the Governor here and so approachable.

Committee did yourselves proud. Thank you for including youth and aboriginal communities in this conference. It was a very valuable conference for me.