

2011/502.20	People development program: Bursaries to attend the Australian National Recreational Fishing Conference 2012
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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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OBJECTIVE:

1. Deliver bursaries to support attendance at the 2012 National Recreational Fishing Conference

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE

- Five future leaders were awarded travel bursaries to attend the National Recreational Fishing Conference, held on the Gold Coast in 2012.
- Participation in the National Recreational Fishing Conference exposed prospective future leaders for Australia's recreational fishing sector to concepts and discussions important to the future of recreational fishing in Australia.
- Travel bursaries also provided opportunities for younger generation fishers to broaden their network of rec fishers, government officials, researchers and industry representatives around Australia

KEYWORDS: conference, future leaders, bursary, recreational fishing

The national recreational fishing conference was held in August 2012 on the Gold Coast. This event provided a rare opportunity for representatives of the recreational sector from around Australia to come together to discuss key issues of importance, and develop a shared vision for the future of recreational fishing in Australia.

Unfortunately due to the cost associated with travelling to the venue, and added registration expenses some representatives of the sector were unable to attend at their own cost.

A request was submitted to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to consider making travel bursaries available for young future leaders to attend the event, and the conference steering committee were subsequently advised that \$10,000 would be made available for this purpose.

It was agreed that bursary recipients would have opportunity for their travel, accommodation and registration costs to be met. A process was initiated to seek interested applications through consultation with peak recreational fishing bodies throughout (A copy of the application form is at Appendix 1).

Five travel bursaries were awarded, to the following future leaders:

1. Daniel Stanilovic from Victoria
2. Hayley Gebbie from Western Australia. Recfishwest member.
3. Natasha Prokop from Western Australia. Recfishwest member.
4. Cheyne Jones from Queensland
5. Mel Brown from New South Wales Australian Underwater Federation member.

The travel bursaries offered by the FRDC created valuable opportunities for a number of future leaders within the recreational fishing sector, many of whom would have been otherwise unable to attend the national conference. Several recipients subsequently wrote blogs or articles in newsletters summarising their experience of the event, thereby further helping to communicate topics discussed and outcomes achieved. For an example go to <http://wefishaustralia.blogspot.com.au/2012/08/national-recreational-fishing-conference.html>

Bursary recipients were interviewed during the conference to gain an insight into the aspects of the conference they felt most interesting/useful. A number of these interviews will soon be uploaded to the event website (www.recfishing2012.com.au) and Youtube after editing is complete. Self-reported summaries of benefits by several are also provided at Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Application form for Young Leader Travel Bursary



FRDC National Recreational Fishing Conference Young Leaders Travel Bursary

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation has established a travel bursary for a limited number of young future leaders in the recreational fishing industry to attend the National Recreational Fishing Conference on the Gold Coast on 17-19 August 2012. If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity please fill in this application form and return by email to matt.barwick@recfishingresearch.org by 10 August 2012.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Explain in 100 words or less why you think you should receive sponsorship to attend the national recreational fishing conference? (consider, for example:

- how you might use the information gained through participation in contributing to the future of recreational fishing in Australia; and,
- how you will help to communicate key findings from the event to the recreational fishing community

[illegible]

Tick which of the following you would require:

- ☐ Travel support
- ☐ Registration support
- ☐ Accommodation support
- ☐ All

What would be the estimated total level of financial support required? (you may need to research flights/accommodation options to answer this):

\$ _____

Signed:

Once complete please email your completed application form to matt.barwick@recfishingresearch.org BEFORE 10th of August. Successful applicants will be advised by Tuesday 14 August.

Appendix 2: Self-reported benefits derived by a subset of young leader travel bursary recipients

Cheyne Jones, Queensland:

I had a great time at the National Rec Fishing Conference 2012 and I feel that I got a great deal out of the weekend, not only knowledge, it was a great opportunity to build upon my network in the sphere of recreational fishing which I know will serve me well going forward. The biggest issue which I feel was at the forefront in one way or another over the whole conference was we seem to be at a tipping point as recreational fishers, with the many external pressures we face such as the anti fishing movement and eroding access to viable and productive fishing grounds. We must take the opportunity as a community to build upon the great work that has already begun in uniting our voice and considerable political clout to push for our rights and get the many positive messages about our sport out there into the larger community so as we are seen as friends not foes to the environment we fish in and enjoy so much.

Natasha Prokop, Western Australia

The themes of the conference meant that people were exposed to ideas they wouldn't have otherwise been exposed to. I think Karen Schmidt's and the Young Future Leader's keynote addresses were eye-opening to many who had perhaps not seriously considered what the role of younger generations of fishers could potentially be in their organisation. I really like the national nature of the conference and the international speakers who also offered the opportunity to be exposed to different perspectives. Some of the best ideas and take-home messages from the conference for me came from other states or countries whose projects and approaches were different from our own in WA. One of the most valuable aspects of the conference for me was the opportunity to network and discuss the future of recreational fishing with those more experienced than myself. Overall I was very impressed with the organisation of the conference, the quality of the speakers and the discussions that were encouraged.

A couple of key messages that have stayed with me is the necessity of a national peak body (and greater collaboration in general) so that we as rec fishers can gain political traction, the necessity of funding and partnerships to drive projects, the value of getting the community involved in projects and the possibilities and scope for a massive range of projects. From hearing of all the good work that rec fishers are doing around Australia, a message I took home was the need to engage in more PR to raise the public profile of rec fishers as responsible and environmentally friendly. We could save ourselves a lot of political angst if this were achieved.

Following on from the conference I have written an article for Recfishwest's E-newsletter about receiving the 'Best project or initiative encouraging women and young people's participation in

fishing' award. I was inspired at the conference with the possibilities of habitat enhancement and volunteer/ community involvement in projects and am currently working with Recfishwest on developing projects to make the most of these possibilities, including adding content to their website.

I think it is a testament to the success of the event that young future leaders were in attendance; however I believe this should be a goal of future conferences to engage more youth in such discussions and to encourage older delegates to take some time out to get to know/ offer guidance to these young delegates. Not that I'm saying this wasn't the case at this year's, only that it could be stated more clearly as a goal and hence there might be a greater degree of interaction between older and younger generations.