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**Ritman Scholarship
recipient**

Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium

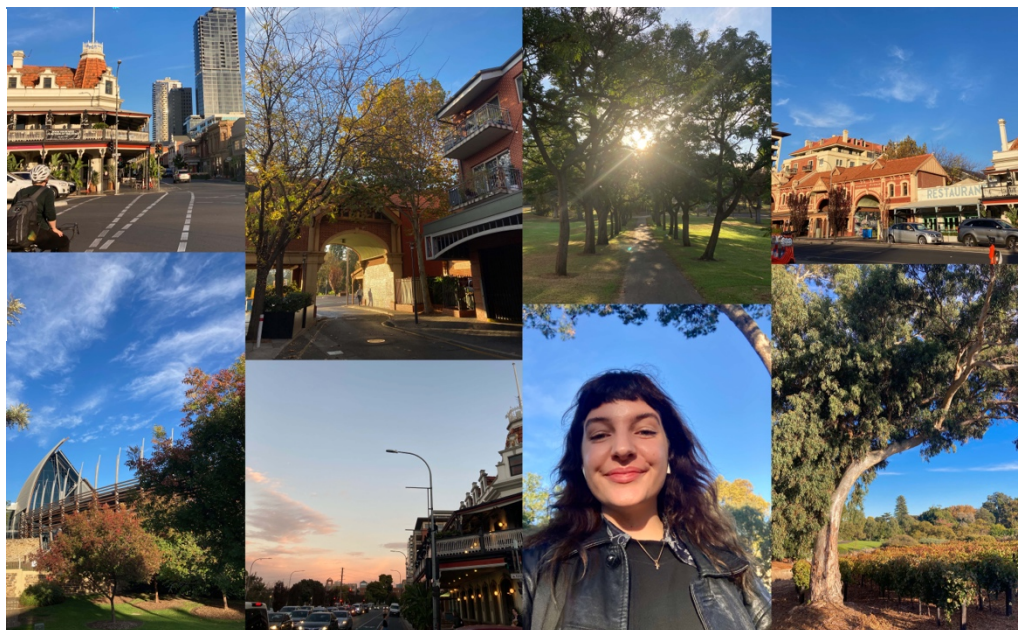
11th – 12th May 2022

The 2022 Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) Symposium was hosted at the picturesque National Wine Centre in Adelaide, SA from the 11th – 12th May.

Day One

The sunny, blue skies were a welcome change from rainy Brisbane, and my stroll through the lush parklands to the wine centre was a perfect start to an exciting couple of days at the PBRI symposium

***Pictured:** Scenes of
Adelaide, a picturesque
commute, and the National
Wine Centre.*



After a grounding welcome to country from Wirrtu Yarlur and a moving opening performance from Loren Ryan, we were ready to get started. Wednesday was comprised of four sessions: preparedness, diagnostics, surveillance, and sustainable pest, disease, and weed management. An excellent keynote address from Ben Harris (Viticulture manager, Treasury Estate) brought us all up to date on biosecurity happenings in the world of wine, as well as giving some important insights on the push for sustainability in viticulture.

An important lesson that stuck with me from the day was from Sharna Holman's (DAF) talk on Fall armyworm in the cotton industry. Sharna explained how the use of language in science communication/ media outputs/ manuscripts plays an important role in the perception of biosecurity issues. Research must be appropriately contextualised, and the goal is to "alert, not

alarm”, as strong language has the possible implication of desensitising the public if a more serious incursion does occur.

I felt lucky to meet so many interesting and inspiring people over cups of coffee and a very tasty lunch. Of course, a common theme throughout the day was the echoed sentiment of the simultaneous nervousness and excitement of returning to in-person talks. It certainly is great to be back!

In an inspiring dinner address from Dr Beth Woods, we heard about the many avenues of a career in biosecurity and the broader impact of biosecurity on the world around us – this was a true highlight of the symposium for me. We finished off an exciting day with a delicious dinner and of course we had to taste-test the wines, too!

Day Two

The second day of the symposium covered a broad range of topics with sessions in biosecurity partnerships, trans-Tasman research, biosecurity and industry resilience, and capability building. I especially enjoyed the Trans-Tasman session, we even got to learn about the innovative role of bees as biomonitors using pollen eDNA from Dr Andrew Cridge (Scion).

I had a productive and social lunch break getting to meet and chat to some collaborators from Sydney and NZ who I had only ever met via email!

Of course, the highlight of the day was getting to present my own research! As a naturally chatty person, a three-minute talk was no easy task, but a challenge I was eager to accept. In the end it was a great experience having to deliver my research in such a distilled, punchy way. As a young scientist, I felt incredibly supported and encouraged by the biosecurity community. Although a somewhat scary experience, it was a wonderful one, and an opportunity that I feel hugely grateful to have received.

***Pictured:** Presenting my research at the PBRI symposium.*



Other highlights

In the few free hours I had on Tuesday afternoon I was lucky to be able to take a stroll around the South Australia Botanic Gardens. I explored the most beautiful glasshouse I've even seen, looked at lots (and lots) of trees, and even got to see Amazon water lilies (*Victoria amazonica*).

***Pictured:** An excursion through the Adelaide botanic gardens, featuring a beautiful glasshouse, a big bottle tree, and toothed water lilies!*



Finally, this slide certainly got a chuckle from the audience (or at least from me) and also happens to serve as a perfect visual representation of how I felt at the end of the 2022 PBRI Symposium!

