

Acting naberly

Chilean-born Carlos Flores, M.AIRAH, is acting program manager at NABERS, responsible for all aspects of the program's delivery.



Carlos Flores, M.AIRAH

Responsibilities

I think of my day-to-day duties as providing some guidance to an incredibly talented team, full of great ideas and passion, while helping them remove the barriers that stand between these ideas and a greener Australia.

Passions

The environment, social justice, education, sport, books, dancing, travel, and a million other things!

Finest professional hour

Representing Australia at the International Energy Agency in Paris last year. It made me realise Australia truly is leading the world in commercial building energy efficiency.

Important lessons

That a group of ordinary people can achieve the most extraordinary things when truly inspired. One of my favourite things about working at NABERS is that we get to see

exactly that, plenty of people who are highly motivated by sustainability and achieving the extraordinary.

Whom do you most admire?

My parents, each truly inspirational in their own way. My mum is an incredibly smart woman, a plasma physicist whose lab was a regular playground for me as a kid (little wonder I ended up as an engineer!).

My dad is a historian, a tourism entrepreneur and one of the most ingenious and resourceful men I have ever met. They taught me that while trying hard is an important part of achieving great goals, having fun while doing so is equally important. Other heroes of mine include Tim Flannery, Nelson Mandela, Bill Bryson, and Mary Anning.

Dream sabbatical

No work, just travelling around the world, learning music and dancing from many cultures.

What is your motto?

I don't really have one, but if I did it would be something like: "Happiness over material possessions".

Greatest personal achievement

To help create a poverty-alleviation not-for-profit with a few friends back when I was in Chile. This still stands a decade later, with more than 100 committed volunteers. You can check them out on capsocial.cl, though you may need to brush up on your Spanish first.

Favourite book

I am a big fan of non-fiction. I guess my favourite would be *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson, hands-down the most entertaining book on science. The highly commendable award would go to

Creativity Inc by Pixar's co-founder Ed Catmull, and *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond.

Favourite film

Pulp Fiction, *Life is Beautiful* and *City of God* probably take the top spot. As a Chilean-Australian, I really like *Machuca* and *Rabbit Proof Fence*, two movies about very different human tragedies (the Pinochet dictatorship and the Stolen Generation, respectively) but that I found equally powerful and moving.

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Favourite website

I really like websites such as kickstarter.com or startsomegood.com. It always amazes me how creative people can be, and how a few guys in a garage can take on the world's greatest challenges.

How would you describe yourself?

As a normal guy with a very curious mind.

Define success

Being able to spend quality time with those you love. Anyone who can achieve that is a truly successful person to me.

What does AIRAH membership mean to you?

One network, thousands of experts and millions of hours of experience making sustainability happen. ■