

ANZIAM early career workshop Rotorua, New Zealand, February 2014

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Rotorua played host to the biennial ANZIAM Early Career Workshop on 7 February 2014 at the Millenium Hotel, which was attended by over 60 PhD and post-PhD researchers. Based on past feedback, the workshop focused on advice sessions including career pathways in academia and industry, writing CVs and balancing research with other commitments. The event was sponsored by ANZIAM and AustMS who generously provided registration, food and accommodation for participants.

The day commenced with short talks from several invited speakers and the organisers about their own journeys from university life into academia or industry. It was interesting to hear about the different career pathways. In particular, Dr James McCaw spoke about moving between different fields of research while Dr Pen Holland spoke about research outside academia. In the subsequent session, the students discussed writing CVs and the mistakes that many make. The organisers showed us their successful CVs, and it was very helpful to be able to see what makes a good CV, and what to avoid.

An interactive session was held, in which participants were asked to submit questions for the panel of invited speakers and organisers to answer. The panel answered academic-related questions such as balancing research with other commitments, publishing and looking for work overseas. In addition, they also provided advice on personal questions such as family life and the two-body problem.

The day was a great opportunity not only to learn about beginning a career in research but also to get to know our fellow PhD students and post-docs from other universities. We spoke about networking as a group, and were given a chance to put it into practice, and get to know our contemporaries in a more informal setting. The day concluded with a workshop dinner at a local Indian restaurant, where we took the opportunity to wind down after a very insightful day.

Overall, the day was a great success and the feedback from other participants was overwhelmingly positive with many appreciating the strong focus on advice sessions. In future, it would be great to have a balance of invited speakers, from both academia and outside academia, attend the event. On the academic side, it would be useful to discuss the transition between PhD study and Post Doctoral

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research. Finally, given the large number of participants who were considering careers outside academia, a session on different career pathways and finding jobs outside academia could be very helpful.

The ANZIAM Early Career Workshop is an important part of ANZIAM and would not be possible without the efforts of the organisers Associate Professor Alex James, Dr Roslyn Hickson and Dr Richard Brown. Thank you to the invited speakers who gave up their time to share their thoughts with us; Dr Clemency Montelle, Dr Pen Holland, Dr Claire Postlethwaite and Dr James McCaw. Finally, many thanks to the sponsors of the event; ANZIAM and AustMS.