

A. Event summary

An exhibition, called “The League of Remarkable Women in Australian Science” will be held at the CSIRO Discovery Gallery Room from the 5th to the 31st of August. This exhibition, registered as an event for the National Science Week is made possible by the generous support of the ANU Gender Institute and the National Science Week – Inspiring Australia Program.

40 female scientists working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) have been interviewed face-to-face or on the phone. Interviewees are from Australia and overseas, working in all States and Territories, and range from being postdoctoral fellows to Dean or Pro-Vice Chancellor. They work on volcanoes, dark matter, spiders, solar cells, protein crystallography, photosynthesis, etc. Interviews have been about what it means to be a woman in science in 2015; interviewees have talked about the challenges but also the rewards of working in science and they have shared their visions of what could make a difference for gender balance in research.

The project has four components, as follows:

- Quotes from the interviews, together with photos, will be showcased at the CSIRO Discovery. Objects from the National Museum of Australia’s collections will also be displayed, linking women in Australian science from the present and from the past.
- An interactive display will be held at Science in ACTion on the 14th and 15th of August, Old Bus Depot Market. School kids and adults will have the opportunity to test their knowledge regarding women in science and will be invited to visit the exhibition.
- A public discussion forum will be held on the 19th of August in the evening, to talk about what it means to be a woman in science in 2015 and what we can do to help the next generation of remarkable women in science. A panel of scientists, both men and women, will talk about their own experience and will also discuss the initiatives that could lead to a better diversity and gender balance in research. This forum will be chaired by Prof. Brian Schmidt and the Hon. Karen Andrews MP.
- All 40 interviews will be put together as an e-book to be sent to all high schools and universities across Australia, to give local role models to the next generation of female scientists.

B. Progress so far regarding the organization of the event

All forty interviews have been done and are currently transcribed/edited. Quotes have been chosen and we have received photos from most of the interviewees. The venue has been booked. We received confirmation from the National Museum of Australia regarding their display. Panels will be printed by mid-July.

Panelists have been contacted and their presence confirmed. We are currently preparing flyers to be distributed at ANU, CSIRO, etc.

C. Media interest and publications

We are currently working on a press release to be sent next week. ANU Media Team has already agreed to help us advertise the exhibition. The exhibition will also be advertised on the following websites:

- National Science Week,
- Science in ACTion,
- The Australian Academy of Science,
- CSIRO,
- The ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis,
- Women in Science Australia (an invited blogpost will also be published there during the National Science Week).

As said above, all forty interviews performed for this project will be published as an e-book. We are also planning on using these interviews as data for a scientific publication.

D. Links with other institutions, potential future collaborations

So far, this exhibition has brought together people from the ANU, the National Museum of Australia, Women in Science Australia and CSIRO. The Agriculture Flagship at CSIRO is currently working on launching a new initiative

regarding gender equity and diversity. If things go according to plan, this initiative should be launched on the 19th of August, prior to the discussion forum. This could be yet another way to bring ANU and CSIRO together. I am hopeful that this work will lead to further collaborations with these institutions.

Some people from other institutions (in Melbourne or Brisbane in particular) have expressed an interest in featuring the exhibition after August. We have made sure that the material used for printing could be packed and moved easily. By doing so, we are trying to make the exhibition easily and readily available to people all around Australia.

E. Benefits for gender equity at ANU and beyond

This exhibition aims at giving role models, positive examples to the next generation of female scientists, at university and high school levels. Having role models in the flesh, people who can be contacted easily is a positive way to raise awareness about gender balance in science. The interview project on which this exhibition is built (<http://remarkablewomeninscience.tumblr.com/>) has proved to be helpful, especially for PhD students. I have received emails telling me that the stories shared on the website have made a difference for them. This is the kind of feedback I have received:

- “I had a rough day today and I read remarkable women stories to cheer me up!” or
- “Thank you SO MUCH for seeking them out and doing the interviewing and posting them. It is so inspiring.”

I am hopeful that the exhibition and the e-book will help make a difference, even for a few students.

F. Future grants and fellowships

This work will be mentioned future external grants and fellowships. There has been quite a considerable amount of work involved in organizing this exhibition and I will definitely mention it.