

2018 Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture - #Press for Progress

The 2018 International Women's Day (IWD) campaign theme was #PressForProgress and ECU's annual Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture on the 8 March featured six extremely inspirational individuals each sharing their own stories of progress and overcoming challenges to reach their goals. The event took place at the Pines on the Joondalup campus and the day was particularly significant as it was the tenth anniversary of the Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture.

The panel featured a diverse range of girls and women of all ages; aspiring students and senior career professionals. ECU's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Partnerships) Professor Cobie Rudd moderated a discussion on how Australia is progressing in the gender equality space, acknowledging the positive gains women are making every day around the world.

The panel included;

- Tanika Van Schelven, Secret Harbour Primary School – One of the youngest children ever to travel to Antarctica under the Australian Antarctic Program in 2017;
- Alyssa Wong and Lily Purser, Shenton College – Winners in the 2017 United Nations Association of Australia WA Sustainability Challenge;
- Aquila Burhani, Edith Cowan University – 5th year chemical engineering student and President of Women in Engineering at ECU;
- Mathilda Carmichael – Cricketer for the Perth Scorchers and former Hockeyroo; and
- Ashley Stewart, Newton Moore Senior High School – Head of Mathematics and 2017 recipient of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute's Mentoring Girls in Maths Award.

This collective made for an insightful conversation on creating real change in the face of adversity and resistance. ECU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steve Chapman attended the event and was joined by Ms Cassie Rowe, Member for Belmont representing the Premier and The Honourable Albert Jacob JP, His Worship the Mayor of the City of Joondalup.



Picture: Professor Cobie Rudd and ECU's IWD panel members discussing how far Australia has come in pushing progress for gender equality, 8 March 2018.