
Update

Wellington Early-Career Researchers (WECR)

A year ago the group Wellington Early-Career Researchers (WECR; formally WEMCR) was launched as a support network for emerging science, social science and humanities researchers in the southern North Island (Shepherd 2012). Over the last year our membership has grown from 70 to 112, with members representing 14 institutions.

WECR held two events in 2013. In February we ran a workshop about applying for research funding, in particular the Marsden Fund and Rutherford Discovery Fellowship scheme. This event was sponsored by GNS Science, the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ) and the New Zealand Association of Scientists. Our speakers included past and present panel members for these funds as well as research fund managers – Ian Ferguson (Ministry for Primary Industries), Shaun Hendy (Industrial Research Limited and Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)), Dean Peterson (RSNZ), Ken McNatty (VUW), and Prue Williams (Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment).

In November we held a workshop about disseminating research through publishing, blogs and social media, which was sponsored by Environmental Science and Research (ESR). Our speakers were

Hilary Hamnett (now at ESR, who previously worked in scientific publishing), Paul Gardner (University of Canterbury), Andrew Preston (<https://publons.com/>) and Leon Perrie (Te Papa).

The committee's plans for 2014 begin with several events focused on presentation and communication skills. A Pecha Kucha night (<http://www.pechakucha.org/cities/wellington>) will be held in late March focussing on early career research. A second function, aiming to develop a mentoring scheme that pairs emerging researchers with established scientists, will be held mid-year. One of our committee members will also be meeting with Hon Steven Joyce, to discuss the issue of postdoctoral funding in New Zealand.

We welcome new members; the link to sign up to our mailing list is: <http://eepurl.com/Ca3XP>, or alternatively, email Lara.Shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz. The WEMR committee is grateful to the institutions that sponsored events this year and to all of our speakers for sharing their expertise.

WECR committee

Reference

Shepherd, L.D. 2012. Wellington Early- and Mid-Career Researchers: A group for emerging researchers in the southern North Island. *New Zealand Science Review* 69(4): 95.

