



bright future – shining stars

Have you got one piece of advice that you'd like to give the audience? What would be the thing that you'd like to share?

Jenny Martin

I guess something that I've found throughout my life as a scientist is that bad things happen sometimes but you should take them as opportunities and I'll give you an example. When I finished my Ph.D in England, out of Oxford, so everything was running for me, I had a great Ph.D, came back to Australia to Bond University, I'm sure everybody's heard of Bond University and I came to the Science and Technology School that was there at the time but about three months after I got there, three months into a three year appointment, the school was closed by the university so I was out of a job and I was traumatised by that process. I was out of a job, three months out of, you know, finally finishing three degrees. So what do I do? But I used it and now I look back, I used it as an advantage. I actually took the opportunity to go overseas again and I got a fantastic job in New York and it was the best opportunity I ever had. So sometimes things look really bad but when I look back now at that point in time, that actually made my career, going over to New York and learning new technologies.

Melissa Griffith

I would say - think holistically about what you want to do. Think about what you love to do, what your passion is but also mainly where you want to live and the sort of lifestyle you want to have 'cause that can really impact on the sort of career that you have and as I said earlier, just take the opportunities you have when you have them, 'cause often they don't come around a second time and don't worry about what other people think or your fears, just go ahead and do it. It'll work out for the best, I'm sure.

Miranda Forwood

Yeah, I was sort of thinking the same thing, I mean don't be afraid to just do what you love. I think there's still a lot of pressure in Year 12 to you know, think you've got to have a good university degree because you know, this is the be-all-and-end-all, you've got to get the great degree and the great marks and then go on from there. But I mean ultimately if you don't like something, you're not going to be good at it. You need to sort of love what you're doing to be good at it, so don't be afraid to do what you want to do and yeah, don't let fears stop you doing anything and if something bad does happen, like I got a bit freaked out in Year 12, when I didn't get into the university degrees that I wanted to, I think, I don't know how many preferences you're allowed, four or six or something and I like, didn't get into my top four. There was a TAFE course above what I ended up getting into and so I did not get into what I wanted to but I just went, no, it's okay, just come back to me in a couple of years, I'll be doing what I wanted to. I remember saying that to my mum at the time, saying, I'm going to get into that degree, somehow. I haven't figured it out yet but I'll do it and yeah, I did. So just don't let things discourage you like that as well, there's always another way in. So don't give up.



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