**SHRP Future Female Leaders and Marine Science Communication Workshops**

At the beginning of April Dr Katie Dafforn (EnvSci-MQU) and Dr Ana Bugnot (USyd) hosted two workshops at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. These were an inaugural WSTEM and ECR skills initiative supported by the Sydney Harbour Research Program and targeted towards marine scientists and engineers. The workshops focused specifically on Women in Leadership and Science Communication. Future female leaders and science communicators joined from Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences and Earth and Planetary Sciences at Macquarie University. Also represented at the workshops were UNSW, USyd, UTS, Uni of Newcastle, Deakin University, the Ian Potter Foundation, NSW OEH, Australian Maritime Museum and the Australian Museum.

The journey to leadership is fraught with challenges and women can face gender specific prejudices to overcome. On Day 1, the "Future Women in Leadership" workshop began with a coaching session facilitated by Zoe Coyle of Pilot Light ([www.pilotlight.com](http://www.pilotlight.com)). Topics ranged from how to lead with body language and energy levels, to active listening and how to navigate difficult conversations. The session was interactive and full of positive energy with a palpable buzz in the room! In the afternoon session, Dr Ana Bugnot facilitated a panel of current female leaders who shared practical tools and advice to navigate a pathway to leadership. Overall it was a fantastic way to end the day with drinks, nibbles and networking on the beautiful verandah at SIMS.

On Day 2 we welcomed leading science communicators "Science in Public" and shifted gears to tackle some of the concerns and challenges that scientists experience when communicating with the media. The first panel session called "Meet the Press" allowed participants to engage with members of print media (SMH), radio (2GB) and TV (Ten News). Thanks go to the fabulous panel members who communicated the challenges they face in bringing a great story to light and shared tips for on and off camera! The rest of the day was lights, camera, action! with participants preparing a 1-minute pitch and then filming each other in the beautiful surrounds of Sydney Institute of Marine Science. We were grateful to have SIMS Digital Media Officer, Leah Woods on hand for some technical tips (landscape, not portrait!) and guidance on digital storytelling.

There was a contest for best pitch and the prize was awarded to Dr Vivian Cumbo of Biological Sciences! Congratulations Viv! She will now get a full day of media training courtesy of "Science in Public" and we look forward to hearing her stories in print, on the radio or TV!