

Australian Biochemist Students' Page

The Student Lunch at Lorne



Robyn (Banjo) Mansfield

*There was movement at the conference, for the word had passed around
That the student lunch was nearly underway
And the lunch packs there awaiting by the lecture theatre door
Were left alone to fight another day.
The students and the speakers, from all labs far and near,
Had mustered at the luncheon for a treat,
For the lab heads love conversing on the topics they hold dear
And the students do enjoy a bite to eat.*

*Some students very eager went directly to the tables
Where speaker's names upon the table stood.
With abstract books a-flicking, they researched all the labels
And placed their bags upon seats where they could.
Meanwhile other students were assembling in the foyer
They were torn between the tables and the platters;
But as the tables filled with bags, the line for food grew longer
And their hunger beat their thoughts on science matters.*

*Before too long, the air was filled with chatter and excitement
And the speakers had arrived to join the fun,
With a range of conversation styles, systematic to flamboyant,
Talk of structures, probes and histones had begun.
While Peter Wright methodically discussed each student's studies,
David Sibley talked malaria and blood,
Mathew Bogyo found the conversation turn to US primaries
And Ben Cravatt III was quite a stud*.*

*So it went, the speakers and the students freely in discussion
Until Matt Perugini took the stand.
A welcome to the happy crowd, a note on the intention,
How to make the most of the event at hand.
"When you get dessert," he said, "you might find it beneficial
To find another seat to occupy."
The students' eyes were brightening, round each and every table,
"Dessert!" they cried, "It's out there now, oh my!"*

*The sideboard was adorned with treats of every shape and flavour,
A stack of saucers were the plates to take.
There were fruit flans, lemon tarts and lamingtons to savour,
Vanilla slice, pavlova and cheesecake.
Decisions took a while to make, pavlova slicing crook,
And then time came to find a free new place,
Regrettably however most positions were still booked,
Lust for dessert must vary, case to case!*

*And as the hour came and went, time for conversing fading,
Plates and glasses cleared from tables soon to scour.
Some groups dispersed quite rapidly, speakers off to golf a-running,
Other pockets stayed another half an hour.
Then once the lunch was over and done, the students and the speakers
Were off to enjoy Lorne's fair coastal pleasures,
With bellies full and brains a-buzzing with plans for tubes and beakers.
The student lunch is one of Lorne's true treasures!*

**Ben was actually charmingly inclusive of everyone, but try rhyming that with 'blood'.*

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Money Money Money!

Scholarship and Fellowship Information for PhD Students

Also check for fellowships awarded by your university and by other professional bodies of which you are a member.

The biggest funding body is the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Check out their website at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/index.htm>

The Australian Research Council also offers funding but keep in mind that deadlines are usually early in the year (i.e. mid - January) See their website for more information <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/default.htm>

The Endeavour Awards are also worth checking out with deadlines for application usually in July http://www.endeavour.dest.gov.au/summary_endeavour_awards/

Many of the state Cancer Council bodies offer funding for PhD students, postdocs and also summer vacation studentships <http://www.cancer.org.au/AboutUs/OurMembers.htm>

Another resource for finding specific funding for your research is JASON (Joint Academic Scholarship Online Network) <http://www.jason.edu.au/>

A similar tool is available on the My Future website where you can search for scholarships related to your field <http://www.myfuture.edu.au/services/default.asp?FunctionID=6001&Action=Advanced>

Also, make sure you check out your local state government for awards and fellowships offered in your state. For example, in Victoria http://www.business.vic.gov.au/BUSVIC/STANDARD/332828535/PC_50847.html

PhD Scholarships

NHMRC Scholarships (Deadline 1 August 2008) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/fellows/types/granttype/scholars/index.htm>

The Australian Rotary Health Fund also has some scholarships that you could be eligible for. The application deadlines vary, check details at <http://www.arhf.org.au/>

Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation Limited (Deadline July 2008) <http://www.cooperfoundation.org.au/>

Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research and Short Term Overseas Research

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (1-4 months travel) (\$3000) <http://www.iubmb.unibe.ch/index.php?id=111>

NHMRC Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships for use in Australia/Overseas (Deadline 4 July 2008) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/fellows/types/granttype/training/index.htm>

Travelling Awards for Research Training for current holders of NHMRC Australian-based Fellowships and Scholarships (3-6 months) (Deadline 4 July 2008) (living allowance up to \$10000, travel up to \$250) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/fellows/types/granttype/training/travel.htm>

Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation Limited Foundation Grants (\$8000-\$20,000) (Deadline October 2008) <http://www.cooperfoundation.org.au/>

The Australian Federation of University Women offers a range of scholarships at the national and international level: <http://www.afuw.org.au/ScholarshipsFS.htm> <http://www.ifuw.org/fellowships/international.htm>

And finally, ASBMB offers a range of awards including the ASBMB fellowships to assist with travel costs for early career researchers to attend conferences <http://www.asbmb.org.au/awards.htm>



We want to make this page interesting to students, so please provide feedback about this page's contents, or your ideas for future issues, by contacting either: **Julia Archbold** (Julia.Archbold@med.monash.edu.au) or **Erinna Lee** (Lee@wehi.edu.au)