

SI Adelaide.....Prizewinners' Night in September

Rachel Nielsen is the Gender Studies Prize Winner for 2015.

Several SISA clubs support this prize.

Rachel is doing her Honors at Adelaide University in the field of Environment, Human Geography and Sociology.

Rachel is studying to become a social Researcher. Her research in human geography is an urban study in transport. She is completing her thesis analyzing the driver training courses in SA to see how cyclists fit into this, considering the tension between cyclists and drivers and the safety of cyclists. She's examining what is taught about cyclists in driver training, analyzing on line information and interviewing driver instructors. She has found cyclist are rarely mentioned in driver training and are positioned as a hazardous object.

Diana Fusco the SI Adelaide Esther Bright Travel award Winner 2015. She is a scientist doing her first year PhD in Paleontology.

Diana attended the Paleontology conference in Alice Springs in Australasian Vertebrate Evolution Paleontology and Systematics in Alice Springs along with 50 Paleontologists from across the world. Diana was the runner up in the best student speaker. She is studying past ecology, the study of fauna responses to past climate change and human impact in eastern Australia.

She has examined the loss of mammal biodiversity by studying remains in caves on Kangaroo Island, the Murray Mallee and Fleurieu Peninsula.

Both speakers thanked Soroptimist International for their support. Although the topics were quite different, both were extremely interesting and gave us food for thought. To have access to the knowledge of these bright young women is a privilege. Directing funds to support such young women is a wise investment into the future of women.

A panel was then held with Georgia Panagiotopolous a former Esther Bright winner and now club member, Rachel and Diana. Georgia is a PhD student at Flinders and is currently writing her own thesis, entitled "Exploring the impact of social determinants of health on the well-being of older widowed Greek migrants in urban and rural South Australia." She's a very busy young woman at the moment.

There was a lively discussion about Gender equality now and in the future and issues currently relevant to young women.