LILLIAN (LILLY) ROSE MARIE TAYLOR (FORMERLY: DANIELLE LILLY DONNELLY)

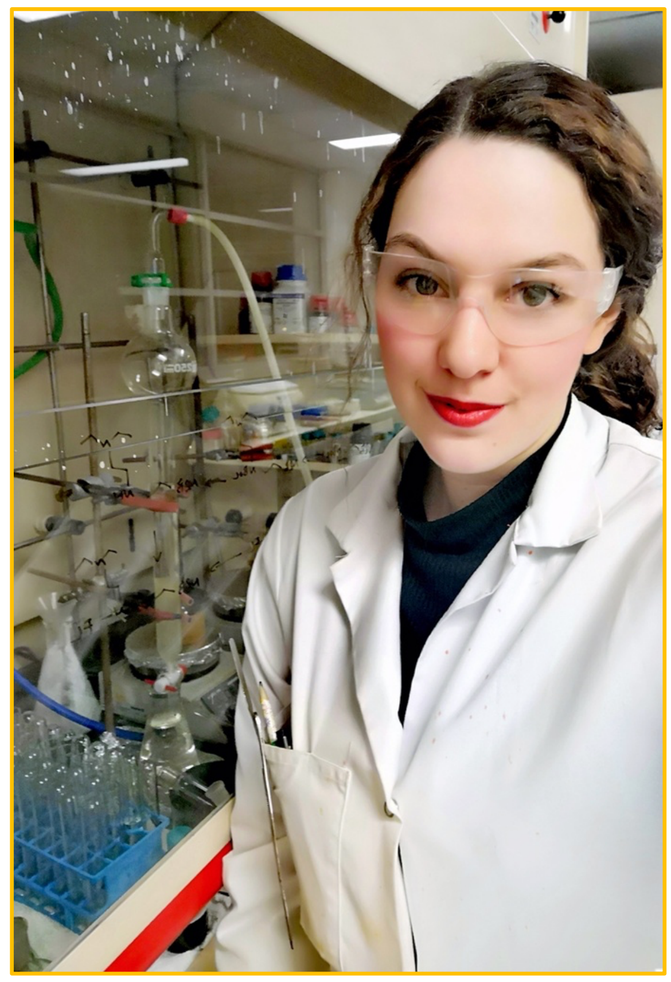
10.08.1993 – 30.01.2019

I would like to tell you about a woman who made such an impact on my life. Her name was Lilly (@STEAMnStilettoes) and she found me through twitter after reading a piece written about me by the RSC. It turned out we had so much in common and we would call or text each other almost everyday. We would talk about anything and everything; sometimes it was chemistry and sometimes it was just girl talk. I honestly believe we would have stayed friends until we were two old grey chemists. She passed away on 30.01.2019, aged only 25. She was a kind, warm, generous woman with the biggest heart and a fierce passion for chemistry, equality, conservation and her Maori heritage. It had been her ambition to travel to Antarctica (see the article below) as part of the Frozen Ferns, Homeward Bound expedition.

We only shared a friendship for a few months but her passing has left a gap in my life with too few memories to fill it.

So I want you to know there was a wonderful woman called Lilly and with her passing away, we truly have lost one of the greatest women in STEM.

Kua hinga te tōtara i Te Waonui a Tāne. Moe mai rā e te māreikura. Kia au te moe.



Wainuiomata news — Wednesday October 10, 2018

Antarctic adventure for young women

By Dan Whitfield

Lilly Taylor is looking to inspire other New Zealand women through an upcoming trip to Antarctica.

Born and raised in Wellington, with a brief stint of her younger years spent in Wainuiomata, Lilly was selected to represent New Zealand in the Homeward Bound leadership training programme.

Lilly is one of six from Team Kiwi, aka The Frozen Ferns, and will join 90 other woman from 33 countries on the adventure in 2019.

She will be part of an initiative focusing on the human impacts on our environment and the need for accessible science.

"When I found out I had been selected I could not believe it! As a Maori woman who left school at 15 and spent most of my youth as a metaphorical suitcase moving between homes and minimum wage jobs, I never imagined I could be here, doing a PhD in chemistry and now going to Antarctica with a bunch of amazing female scientists," Lilly says.

As part of the trip, she and the others will work together to develop individual strategies for scientific outreach; using the amazing backdrop of Antarctica to engage communities around how science impacts everyone's lives and environments.

"Having come from a background that is all too familiar for many of our kiwi youth, I want to use the tools and networks built on the Homeward Bound programme to make STEMM [science, technology, engineering, math and medicine] more accessible," Lilly says.

"It's important for both our future prosperity and for our environment. If we create equal opportunity, we empower people to learn, think, ask questions and seek answers.

"Even if someone isn't going to become a 'scientist' everyone deserves to be able to make informed choices, and understand the decisions being made around them that affect them," she says.

Lilly is looking for support towards her journey to help knock down the barriers and encourage equal opportunity in education.

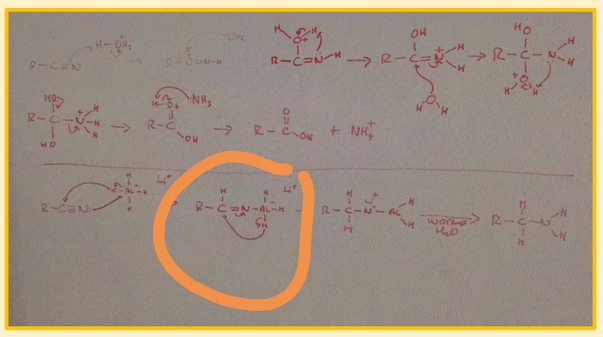
People can donate towards her trip at the crowdfund site chuffed.org by searching 'empower-woman-in-stemm-lillys-homeward-bound-journey'.

"We are battling the biggest challenges we have ever had to face as people. Climate change, antibiotic resistance, our current reliance on finite resources like fresh water and petrol, the approaching food crisis, so many of these dilemmas require advancements in STEMM fields to solve," she says.

"If we have people who think differently, contribute unique ideas and approach these problems from alternative perspectives we will solve them much more efficiently."

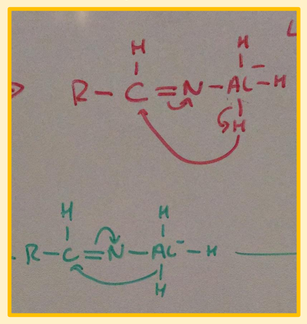
Lilly Taylor is heading to Antarctica to inspire other New Zealand women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

She was always there to help me with organic chemistry.



Lilly Taylor: So this one I think doesn't quite look right. You can either move the electrons from the hydride to the carbon directly or else show this in two steps

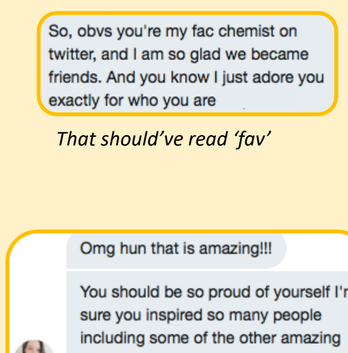
Lilly Taylor: But the rest is great. I like that you are careful to draw the arrows either from the lone pair or from the middle of the bonds and you carry your charges well.



Lilly Taylor: Perfect!

She always had the nicest things to say to me.

She went roller skating once and fell into the sea!



That should've read 'fav'

On the subject of me speaking at story collider. She was able to listen to it before she died.

A memory page has been set up for her at http://www.amemorytree.co.nz/remembrance.php?personid=391416

You can find out more about the Frozen Ferns and their expedition to Antarctica at https://www.facebook.com/FrozenFerns/

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