Chloe Liu

Chloe Liu grew up in northern China in a large extended family. An only child, she was encouraged to value independence and education. At fifteen, she moved to Melbourne for school without her parents or a familiar support network—a turning point that gave her room to grow within a new culture and education system.

At Billanook College in Mooroolbark, Melbourne initially felt distant; moving later to Box Hill made the city feel closer and helped Chloe imagine Australia as part of her story. She first considered veterinary science, but after a teacher recognised her strength in mathematics, she pursued science and then civil engineering at the University of Melbourne. Drawn to structures, systems, and practical problem-solving, she eventually focused on transport because it connects technical knowledge with everyday life.

At La Trobe University, Chloe researched road safety, examining photoluminescence treatments at rural railway level crossings. The work required technical understanding, patience, and clear communication. As English is not her first language, she used AI tools to refine her academic writing while recognising that they could support, not replace, her judgement. Her reflections centred on independence, respect, creativity, and self-awareness—understanding her role in different settings and her effect on others.

Looking ahead, Chloe hopes to remain in transport, where engineering, research, communication, and practical impact converge. Her journey—from northern China to Melbourne, and from science to civil engineering and transport research—reflects gradual self-discovery grounded in independence, respect, and creativity.

What I gained from the Conference

The conference broadened my understanding of transport by highlighting mobility, equity, local context, and emerging technology. I gained a stronger appreciation of how age, gender, and accessibility shape transport experiences, while the “x-minute neighbourhood” prompted me to consider more adaptable planning. Discussions of AI showed its potential to improve transport, alongside the need for responsible and reliable use. Meeting people from diverse backgrounds reinforced the value of multiple perspectives and encouraged me to pursue more inclusive and sustainable solutions.