# Yunlong Wang: Transport, Technology and Responsible Innovation

Yunlong Wang is a science and engineering researcher whose work sits at the intersection of transportation, emerging technology and everyday life. He moved from China to New Zealand to pursue further study, broaden his experience and build an internationally focused career. His long-standing curiosity about how things work eventually led him towards research with practical value, particularly the challenge of making transport systems safer, smarter and more efficient.

During his PhD, Wang specialised in intelligent transportation systems, exploring how data, computing and intelligent technologies could improve transport planning and operations. He credits his supervisor with helping him identify worthwhile research questions, apply rigorous methods and connect technical work to real-world needs. Looking ahead, he hopes to continue working across research, technology and transportation, producing knowledge and practical solutions that benefit society.

Wang believes the central challenge posed by artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, electrification and evolving public transport is not simply whether these technologies can be adopted, but whether they can be integrated responsibly. Safety, privacy, accountability, infrastructure and equitable access must all be considered if innovation is to support sustainable mobility rather than create new problems.

He takes a similarly measured view of AI in education and daily life. Although he uses it to organise information, improve efficiency, assist with routine tasks and support translation, he cautions students against allowing it to replace reading, analysis and independent problem-solving. For Wang, AI is most valuable when its output is checked carefully and applied with sound judgement. Away from work, he maintains balance through table tennis and swimming—activities that give him both exercise and a welcome opportunity to unwind.

## What I gained from the Conference

As a doctoral student nearing graduation and hoping to build a career in Australia, I found the 2026 National Transport Conference a valuable opportunity to develop my confidence, expand my professional network and explore future pathways. With encouragement from Nick, support from ITE-ANZ and Mr John Reid, and career advice from academics including Professor Zheng, I connected with industry professionals who invited me to share my CV and discuss potential vacancies. A conversation with a Queensland University of Technology professor led to an invitation to present my research to the university's transport group, where I explored collaboration, internship and postdoctoral opportunities. I left Brisbane with stronger communication skills, greater confidence in approaching people and promising contacts who may help me take my next career step in Australia.