**Speakers**

* Kate Minns: Grant Thornton, Graduate Recruitment Senior Consultant
* Jason Topp: SMYD Chartered Accountants, Director
* Nafiz Azman: Callida Consulting, Principal Consultant

**Future Proofing your Career (Kate Minns)**

* Give yourself options
* Try to expose yourself to different industries and roles
* Kate’s competencies
  + Problem solving
  + Customer/Client mindset
  + Dependability
  + Drive
  + Dedication
  + Initiation
* Make conscious choices
* Skills and capabilities that professional services firms seek
  + Adaptability
  + Resilience
  + Grit
  + Initiative
  + Growth mindset
  + Commercial acumen
* Build a multifaceted career starting with your degree – provide opportunity for choice
* Consider post graduate qualifications and industry certifications
* Look to add value
* Take calculated risks
* Think of positive and negative consequences and make informed choices
* Build technical and soft skills
* Develop your personal brand

**Key takeaways from my Career (Jason Topp)**

* + 2 Key pillars: Technology and Personal Brand
* Technology allows us to be valued added advisors and become decision makers
* Outcomes are crucial and how well we can analyse output
* Leveraging technology to build your personal brand is key
* Build relationships
* Put your hand up to be part of projects and become outcome focuses
* Be part of people’s decision making
* Think of an industry you want to work in
* Being a CA means stability in your career

**International Student Becoming a CA (Nafiz Azman)**

* Challenge as an international student is learning Australian colloquialisms
* You can learn and engage from those around you
* Attend events
* Apply for graduate or volunteer roles
* Stay motivated – it just takes one employer to make a start
* Be flexible in terms of area of work
* Benefits of being an international student:
  + Understanding different cultures and communication techniques
  + Being open to perceiving people holistically
* The power of perseverance
* Be willing to adapt
* Follow your gut and take a leap of faith
* Accountants are trusted advisors and data is the new oil which is valuable and needs to be refined
* Learn a new skill
* Stay in touch with family and friends
* Through adversity, we gain opportunity\

**Q&A**

1. The number 1 mistake candidates make

* Leaving out work experience, include customer service roles as they build strong competencies
* Not articulating why interested in the organisation and team applying for
* Research and articulate clearly
* Standout candidates have a commercial mindset and an interest in the commercial world
* Follow LinkedIn and the Australian Financial Review

1. Advice for introverts

* Focus on getting to know people
* Offer help
* Generate results – this creates relationships
* Results speak louder than words

1. Current restrictions on Networking (due to COVID-19)

* Be determined to look out for opportunities online to fit your goals
* Plan for now, keeping in mind the next 3 years
* Attend online events
* Use online environment to your advantage
* Consider becoming part of the young CA committee

1. Development of Personal/Professional Brand

* Work out your characteristics that are inherent
* Ask a friend or team member what they see and become known for it
* Cultivate what is true to you, be authentic
* This will bring positivity
* Be clear on what you want to get out of your job, know your goals
* How you do anything is how you do everything

1. What to look for in a cover letter

* Not a repetition of your resume
* Relatable - who you are, personal qualities
* Keep it concise