



WIT WIRE

December 2013



Hello Witty Women,

As we come to the end of 2013 it is time to reflect on a great year for Women in Technology and the full year that we have had.

Just a few of the events and programs held during 2013 included the ICT City Series Breakfasts which were very well attended, in some instances people having to be placed on a waiting list. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported these events and to the truly wonderfully talented women who generously and honestly shared their stories.

Our WIT Board Readiness Program saw another group of experienced women increase their knowledge and skills ready for their first (or next) board position. Good luck to you all and we will be keeping up with your progress over the next few years. To express your interest in a possible 2014/2015 Board Readiness Program please [click here](#).

We had a great night at our annual Awards Ceremony and huge congratulations again to all our nominees, finalists and winners. We hope that you benefited from the experience and will encourage others to nominate next year or nominate someone you believe deserves to be acknowledged for the achievements.

During the year we have had a notable increase in our membership, obtain some notable [sponsors](#), exceeded 1200 connections on our [LinkedIn Group page](#), undertook a member survey and analysis, held our annual strategy day and recently brought together a group to review the Annual Awards process and Gala Event. Across these many different forums we have heard your voice and there will be quite a few changes to WIT membership offerings, programs and events in 2014 and I very much look forward to sharing them with you in January.

With all we have planned for 2014 we would graciously accept any offers of volunteer help..it is with the help of our wonderful volunteers that we can make things happen. Volunteering can offer some invaluable experience and networking and a wonderful sense of paying it forward. If you are interested in volunteering in 2014 please email our secretariat, Lisa Cawthorne on secretariat@wit.org.au.

In the meantime, I wish to thank you all for your support of Women in Technology throughout 2014, wish you all a happy and healthy festive season and see you very soon in 2014.

Sue Johnston, President of WiT

"A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman. But the search to find that voice can be remarkably difficult."

– Melinda Gates

WiT EVENTS

February 19th - Mentor for a Moment SAVE THE DATE

March 11th - Social Media Workshop SAVE THE DATE

WiT ICT CITY SERIES BREAKFAST WITH MICHELLE TREDENICK - WRAP UP



The November WiT ICT City Series Breakfasts continue to provide fabulous insights into the career progression of remarkable women in ICT.

At the sold out November breakfast Michelle Tredenick outlined her career development, provided lessons learnt along the way and gave some key take-aways before opening the floor to an extended question time.



Michelle's career includes CIO roles with NAB and Suncorp, amongst others, before she moved into Board Director and Chair positions for a number of large organisations. The steps required to grow into executive roles and then make the transition to Boards can be varied and Michelle's candid responses made for a very engaging discussion.

It was also great to see so many ladies, along with a few male colleagues, enjoying the breakfast and taking the opportunity to network.

A huge thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



CALLING FOR IDEAS FOR QUEENSLAND'S DIGITAL INDUSTRY

The Queensland Government has released its [Draft Queensland Digital Economy Strategy](#) and is seeking feedback and ideas from Queenslanders via the public [consultation hub](#).

This week's focus area is the Digital Industry, which is about identifying future actions and ideas that would contribute to the increased production and consumption of innovative Queensland digital solutions; attract talented people into digital careers; and lead to better cross-industry partnerships.

I strongly urge all members to have your say on this important matter, by taking the time to complete the short online [submission form](#).

Consultation closes on 9 December 2013 – so be quick to have your say!

AUSTRALIA'S UNDERESTIMATED RESOURCE: WOMEN DOING BUSINESS GLOBALLY

You might recall last year the University of Melbourne-WIGB research project and survey into Women Doing Business Globally. The results were a revelation in this rarely studied group of women contributing to Australia's economic growth. The report from the first year is available for download [here](#).

Now WIGB and the University of Melbourne are undertaking a 2nd survey. This is the only research of its kind in Australia and your help in participating would be appreciated.

The questionnaire will take just 20min to complete and help collect vital information on the challenges facing women in business. [For more information please click here](#).

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND SKILLS QUEENSLAND - SUPPORTING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WiT applauds the Queensland government and Skills Queensland for the Supporting Women Scholarship program that is providing opportunities for Queensland women of all ages and backgrounds to gain qualifications in high priority and skills shortage areas, which have been traditionally male-dominated.

The scholarships are available for vocational education and training and university study from the Certificate IV level through to postgraduate qualifications.

The scholarships benefit a cross-section of our membership from school leavers to graduates to those women trying to upskill to change careers or re-enter the workforce after a break.

To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be commencing a new program of study in 2014 (i.e. not a continuing student)
- Be applying to study in one of the [eligible fields of study](#) and at one of the [eligible qualification levels](#)
- Applying to study at a Queensland university or registered training organisation
- Not be studying at the same, or higher, qualification level than the program that the scholarship will fund
- Be an Australian Citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, New Zealand citizen living in Queensland, or Australian Permanent Humanitarian Visa Holder
- Be a Queensland resident.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUPPORTING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

AWARD WINNER PROFILE - JENNIFER FIRN - Winner of the Rising Star Award sponsored by QUT ihbi

After the 2013 Awards we took some time to ask our amazing award winners the secrets to their success and plans and dreams for the future. We would like to thank Jennifer for her contribution to the industry and her support of Women in Technology. Congratulations Jennifer a well deserved win!



1. What is your background and your work and your career to date?

I am a theoretical and applied ecologist who specializes in linking ecological theory to the sustainable management of degraded grasslands and forests. The driving motivation throughout my career has been to find smarter, cheaper and more sustainable ways of restoring degraded plant communities. I completed my PhD research in three years in June 2009, receiving a Dean's Commendation for PhD Excellence from the University of Queensland. In February 2009, I started a three year OCE Postdoctoral Fellowship at CSIRO. In

February 2011, I gained an Early Career Lectureship position in the School of Biological Sciences, Queensland University of Technology (QUT). In July 2013, I was promoted to Senior Lecturer at QUT, and I am currently seconded part-time to CSIRO ecosystem sciences.

2. Describe how you felt when you were nominated for the award and when you won?

I was very surprised to have been nominated. I was nominated by an established researcher whom I admire very much from another university and whom I did not even know was aware of the research I have been doing. I was thrilled to have been shortlisted and to have been chosen from amongst such an inspiring group of early career researchers. I thought because I worked in the field of restoration ecology that I did not have a chance of winning. The fact that I won confirms for me that people genuinely care about biodiversity and sustainable management of our natural ecosystems. This award has inspired me to work even harder to make a difference.

3. Can you briefly describe why you were chosen for this award?

I was told that I was chosen for the award because of my passionate commitment to developing a better understanding how the loss of native biodiversity impacts on ecosystems and subsequently finding better ways to bring it back.

4. What do you feel are the qualities women need to succeed in the technology sectors?

I think women need to find a purpose for their work or research that matters to them, a problem or an industry that they are passionate about, then the hardwork, commitment and drive that is needed to compete and make a difference will come a lot easier.

5. Who are your role models and how have they contributed to your success?

My role models are researchers who have made a difference through hard work, passion and communication, including Sue McIntyre, Suzanne Prober, Rod Fensham and Hugh Possingham. Their research has truly made a difference in how we manage ecosystems in Australia.

6. What are the benefits of having an association such as WiT to support, acknowledge and recognize the outstanding

The benefits of an association like WIT are the networking opportunities. WIT provides opportunities for early career researchers to meet groundbreaking researchers and leading industry representatives whose advice and mentoring are invaluable.

7. If you had a magic wand to change one thing to make the world work better what would you do?

If I had a magic wand and only one wish to make the world better, I would re-distribute essential resources such as water, soil nutrients, seed and livestock evenly across the continents so no part of the world had shortages.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE - WiT BIOTECH COMMITTEE

The WiT Biotech Chapter Committee is seeking expressions of interest in the positions of Committee Members and Chair.

Biotech Chapter Chair

Responsibilities:

- Chairs the biotech committee
- Drives the activities of the Biotech committee
- Has an automatic seat on the WiT board
- Develops the strategic outlook for the biotech membership of the organisation in conjunction with the committee and brings that to the board level
- Directs the activities of the committee in support of the strategic plans of the WiT board

Commitment:

- Monthly meetings (currently 7am first Wednesday of the month)
- Time commitment ~1-2hrs a week for Biotech Chair, varies with activities throughout the year
- Time commitment as a Board member ~4-6hr a week
- Attendance at WiT Events throughout the year

Benefits:

- Relevant Board experience for future applications and appointments
- Opportunity to gain extensive experience in leading a committee and contributing to the development of a not-for-profit organisation
- Opportunity to initiate and develop activities that have a positive impact on a significant number of people
- Meeting and networking with a large number of industry and government participants
- Contributing to industry policy development at government level
- Making lasting friendships and business contacts
- Learning aspects of work and management that may otherwise not be part of one's job, eg marketing and communication

Biotech Committee Members

Responsibilities:

- Develops the strategic outlook for the biotech membership of the organisation in conjunction with the committee and brings that to the board through the chapter chair
- Helps to develop the engagement of the biotech community with WiT
- Performs activities of the committee in support of the strategic plans of the WiT board

Commitment:

- Monthly meetings (currently 7am first Wednesday of the month)
- Time commitment ~1-2hrs a week for Biotech committee member, varies with activities throughout the year
- Attendance at WiT Events throughout the year

Benefits:



- Committee member experience for future applications and appointments
- Opportunity to gain extensive experience contributing to the development of a not-for-profit organisation
- Opportunity to initiate and develop activities that have a positive impact on a significant number of people
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The WiT AGM is also coming up on 2 April 2014 where new board roles will be available.

If you are interested in more information regarding the positions or to apply, email secretariat@wit.org.au.

SPONSOR PROFILE - HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY GBST



WiT would like to congratulate our very supportive sponsor GBST on their 30th Birthday, what a great milestone that was celebrated globally across the businesses with an event held in each office last Friday 29th November.

GBST's employees entered a global raffle with prizes worth up to \$25,000AUD. A total of 1705 tickets were sold and they raised a grand total of \$8,852AUD. GBST will match this and all funds will be donated to charities.

One of the biggest prize winners, Sreejith Sreenilayam from the Wollongong office won a \$10,000AUD travel voucher + 1 week of annual leave and Josiane Joubran from the Brisbane office celebrated her 30th birthday on the same day.



[Click Here](#) for information on how to become a WiT Sponsor and the benefits associated with this.

WiT WELCOMES THEIR LATEST SMALL BUSINESS MEMBER - QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE



Queensland Government



Queensland Government Chief Information Office

The Queensland Government invests around \$1.5 billion a year in information and communication technology (ICT).

The Queensland Government Chief Information Office (QGCI) is responsible for ensuring the government's ICT investments:

- support policy outcomes
- are focussed on service delivery to the community
- represent good value for money
- are reliable

They provide advice to Queensland Government agencies and executive government on issues such as:

- setting ICT strategy, policies and standards
- adopting better practice for ICT investment management
- identifying and managing risks, including 'over the horizon' risks
- developing proposals for major whole-of-government investments
- identifying and managing strategic workforce capability issues
- improving contract outcomes
- facilitating strategic relationships with industry partners

The Queensland Government Chief Information Officer is part of the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts and works closely with other areas of the department, including the ICT Strategic Sourcing group.

[Read more....](#)

INVESTMENT IN QUEENSLAND'S BRIGHTEST MINDS

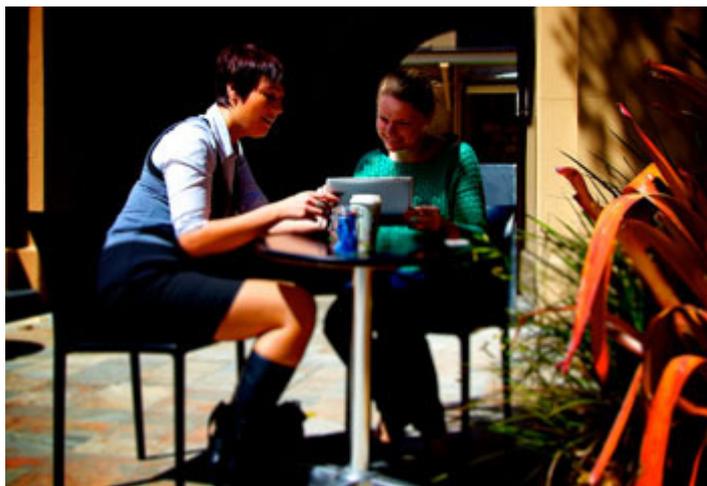
Queensland's science and innovation sector received a major boost, with a funding injection of \$8.75 million through the new Accelerate Queensland Science and Innovation Program.

Science and Innovation Minister Ian Walker launched the initiative with the help of sisters Dr Cheryl McCarthy and Dr Alison McCarthy who are mechatronic research engineers at the University of Southern Queensland.

The funding is part of the Newman Government's [Science and Innovation Action Plan](#) which outlines a commitment to turn great ideas into great opportunities. The following funding is now available:

- \$3 million Accelerate Fellowships program for early to mid-career researchers
- \$4.25 million Accelerate Partnerships program for collaborative science and research projects
- Up to \$1.5 million in Accelerate Ideas program for projects that demonstrate the potential commercial viability of a new idea

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP - ABSOLUTELY FREE AT WiT



Did you know that **Student Membership** to Women in Technology is **absolutely FREE!**

At WiT we want to support the next generation of Women in Technology and create a strong network between women of all ages and levels of experience in the technology industries.

It is very easy to apply!

So if you are or know any students, that would benefit from being a member of Women in Technology please go to www.wit.org.au/get_involved/Join_Us.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

17 December 2014 - Gangwon-Queensland Biotech Business Forum

A delegation from Korea will be visiting Brisbane and holding the Gangwon-Queensland Biotech Business Forum, supported by LSQ. The forum's aim will be to help identify a diverse range of potential partners in the fields of natural medicine, nutraceuticals and bioresources between Korean and Brisbane-based organisations and research institutes. For more details, or to register, please [click here](#).

17-19 February 2014 - LSQ is Supporting BioAsia2014

Life Sciences Queensland Limited is supporting [BioAsia 2014 - Empowering Tomorrow by Fostering Innovations](#), which will be held from February 17-19, 2014, in Hyderabad, India. LSQ is pleased to offer LSQ Members a special discount for those who wish to attend BioAsia 2014. For more details on how to access this discount, please contact LSQ on marketing@lsq.com.au or phone +617 3331 3939.

1-2 April 2014 - AusMedtech 2014 Hilton on the Park Melbourne

AusMedtech in its 7th year will again return to Melbourne at the Hilton on the Park. The conference is growing year-on-year and 2014 will feature a comprehensive program, trade exhibition, networking events and AusPartnering, a networking and partnering platform allowing delegates to schedule 30-minute meetings with other attendees. For more information on the conference please visit the website: www.ausmedtech.com.au

2014 Ausbiotech Investment Series

4-6 June 2014 Asia Biotech Invest 2014, Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, Hong Kong

20 June 2014 Australian Life Science Investment Showcase, San Francisco, USA

Late 2014 Australia Biotech Invest 2014, Melbourne, Australia

The first staging of Asia Biotech Invest in June 2013 was the biggest-ever biotech showcase to be held in Hong Kong, attracting more than 230 high-level delegates from across the life science community. The 2014 Asia Biotech Invest will build on the fruitful discussions initiated at this event. The showcase in San Francisco has been timed to precede BIO Chicago to involve delegates who are also travelling to that event. US investment bank Cowen Group, have signed on as our major partner, along with other supporting partners ASX, DLA Piper and Blueprint Life Science Group. This event will spotlight and celebrate the achievements and opportunities happening in the Australian biotech sector.

For general enquiries and information about sponsorship and presentation opportunities for the 2014 AusBiotech Investment Series, please contact AusBiotech's Investment Program Manager, Hayley Laing, tel. +613 9828 1400 or email hlaing@ausbiotech.org.

YWCA QLD - Y Bloom Program

YWCA QLD is currently looking for talented business women to be mentors in their signature program Y Bloom. The program will be delivered during semester 1, 2014 in partnership with Woodridge State High School and Beenleigh State High School. Y Bloom is a unique mentoring program for teenage girls who show potential as leaders. The program is designed for girls in Year 9 (approximately 14 years old) to build resilience and confidence through activities which grow self-awareness, emotional intelligence, problem solving, team work, creativity and business skills. A key element in the program's success is the involvement of mentors – inspiring women drawn from the local community who participate as positive role models and facilitators. Throughout the program girls work in their teams on a student-directed project to showcase and practice their new leadership skills. [Click Here for more information](#).

WiT JOBS BOARD

Call to all Sponsors and Corporate Members - if you have a position vacant to advertise, consider our WiT jobs board. Email secretariat@wit.org.au for more information.

Don't forget to ensure your WiT Membership is current moving in to 2014 and your contact details are up to date to ensure you do not miss out on the benefits available to Members Only! If you have any queries regarding your membership status don't hesitate to email secretariat@wit.org.au.

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