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WiT May eNews

From: **Lisa Cawthorne** (secretariat=wit.org.au@worldsecuresystems.com) on behalf of **Lisa Cawthorne**
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To: secretariat@wit.org.au



WiT WIRE

MAY 2014



Well! the first quarter of the year has gone by at a rapid rate and we are definitely in full swing for 2014.

At WiT so far this year, we had the pleasure of hosting the Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, Ian Walker at our February board meeting. Discussions focused on working to retain women in the technology fields in particular support for flexible work practices, the importance of providing opportunities for women to gain vital experience balanced with the need to have flexibility to maintain the work/home balance.

We also talked about working more closely with the Government to identify women working in the public sector and ensuring that they have the opportunity to participate in WiT activities, such as the ICT City Breakfast Series, Networking, Mentoring and the annual WiT Awards. It was a very productive meeting and WiT looks forward to working more closely with the Government to support women in technology and encourage women to reach their full potential.

At our AGM in April a number of our hard working board members stood down from the WiT Board. It is with great sadness that we said farewell to our Vice President-Jane Kenna, Director-Terry Woodcroft and Treasurer-Monica Anthon and from our ICT Committee, Jordan Day. I would like to thank all the board and chapter members for their hard work and dedication as WiT would not function without your enthusiasm & drive. In particular it was very sad to see Jane step back as she has been involved with the WiT board for a number of years and has represented our life sciences community with great passion.

We are extremely lucky though to have some new fresh faces to our board with Kristy Simpkin taking on role of Treasurer, Mathilde Desselle our Life Sciences Chair and Fiona Hayes our ICT Chair. We also welcome many new faces to our Committees including Lilach Avitan, Andrea Schuesser and Roxane Legaie and we are extremely excited to have Fiona Sheridan taking the position of Vice President. Fiona is a very dedicated board member of WiT who brings a great wealth of knowledge and experience to our board.

May saw our first ICT City Breakfast with Maureen Frank, which was an overwhelming success and a special thanks to our sponsor Datacom for sponsoring the event and for Grant Thornton for providing a beautiful venue and catering.

Coming soon to WiT we will see our Mentoring Program launched so keep a look out for that one.

Take care till next time and I look forward to chatting with you at a WiT event soon.

Sue Johnston, President of WiT

WiT EVENTS

June

Mentoring Program Date Saver 20/6/14

July

***ICT City Breakfast with Jodi Schmidt Date Saver
8/7/14***

BIOTECH MORPHS INTO LIFE SCIENCES

As you may know, WiT have 2 sub committees one based in the ICT sector and one for our Biotech membership.

In the recent past we have noticed that our membership does not neatly fall into these categories. In order to address this and to ensure that our committees fully represent our membership we are going to broaden our "Biotech Chapter" and convert it to a "Life Sciences Chapter".

We welcome your thoughts on this initiative and on any of the other changes that have been made in response to our comprehensive feedback survey last year.

OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION

At WiT we are always very proud of our Member's accomplishments and we thought it might be good to share these stories so you can be inspired and motivated by the great work going on by our Women in Technology. If you have any stories to share please email in to us at secretariat@wit.org.au, either about yourself or someone you know, we would love to hear them and share them with the group.

AWARD WINNER PROFILE - REBECCA LANGDON WINNER OF THE WiT PROFESSIONAL AWARD SPONSORED BY HEWLETT PACKARD

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 Rebecca for her contribution to the industry and her support of Women in Technology. Congratulations Rebecca a well deserved win!

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

For the past 3 years I have been working with Datacom Systems as a Business Development Manager. During this time I have also completed my Masters in Business Administration majoring in Project Management. I have worked in various roles in the IT industry for the last 14 years after starting in a small Mac store in retail and sales support. Most of this time has been spent with a traditional hardware and software reseller.

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

I was overwhelmed and excited to receive a nomination for an award with Women in IT. To be recognised by your industry peers is a great honour.

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

I cant remember what was read out on the night! I believe I was chosen for my input to corporate social responsibility and displaying the ability of our industry to help others.

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

Backing yourself and your abilities are key to succeeding in any industry but particularly in technology which is predominantly male orientated.

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

I believe everyone you meet provides you with insight of who you want to be or just importantly who you don't want to be.

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

Being part of a supportive organisation that provides encouragement and education is important to building knowledge and confidence. WiT consistently provides events and opportunities to build your network and knowledge.

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

That's a very scary question! All changes have consequences and I couldn't pick one! I'd have to say eradication of preventable disease coupled with affordable housing with safe water.

WESLEY RESEARCH INSTITUTE - YOUNG ADVOCATES

The Wesley Research Institute is seeking enthusiastic people less than 40 years of age to join their Young Advocates.

The purpose of the group is to organise fundraising social activities and to choose where they direct the research funds.

Full support is provided by the professional WRI fundraising team. Great networks and connections to medical and demographic/health research.

If interested, please contact Maree Klemm at mareeklemm@gmail.com.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP - 2 YEARS ABSOLUTELY FREE AT WiT



Did you know that **Student Membership** to WiT is **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!***

If you are or know anyone that would benefit from being a member of WiT go to



www.wit.org.au/get_involved/Join_Us.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

28 May, 2014 Women in Science Communication Breakfast

Australian Science Communicators - South East QLD branch Women in Science Communication Breakfast is being held on Wednesday, 28 May 2014 from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM (AEST) at St Lucia.

[Click here for more information](#)

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.

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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Women in Technology

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