

WiT welcomes new talent to the board

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Women in Technology (WiT), the peak industry body for women in technology and life sciences within Queensland has welcomed a number of new faces to their board at their recent annual general meeting.

WiT Co-President Kristy Simpkin is confident the new board can propel the not-for-profit forward to achieve their goal of advancing, connecting and empowering women in technology and life sciences.

“Our board is made up of industry leaders and trailblazers making their mark in traditionally male dominated industries.

“This year we received a number of high quality applications from people wanting to join the WiT board.

“The votes are in and we are thrilled to welcome some amazing new talent to the WiT family” Mrs Simpkin said.

Tracy Russell is enthusiastic about her appointment.

“I have been a member of WiT for many years now and gained immense value from the programs they run.

“I am looking forward to contributing to the board, helping to drive WiT's vision, growing our relationships and continuing to provide valuable programs to our members.

“It is an honour to be chosen and be part of such an exciting and progressive organisation” Tracy said.

This year WiT celebrates an important milestone, 20 years of operation. WiT was founded in 1997 with the support of just 10 women. The association now has almost 2500 members and a reach of 15,945 through LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Dr Alison Rice has stepped in to the role of Co-President for the first time and is excited about the opportunities ahead.

“Later this year we will be unveiling a new look WiT – a renewed brand and identity for the organisation to take us into the next 20 years”

“We’re also looking at how we can re-engage all our past board members and supporters – all of the people that have contributed to the success of WiT over the years” Mrs Rice said.

WiT empowers, develops and celebrates women in technology and life sciences via relevant events, mentoring, programs, awards and networks. WiT is committed to:

- Developing a strong and sustainable network for members and supporters with industry
- Building mutually beneficial partnerships and relationships with government, academia and industry
- Advocating for our members on relevant issues to advance the presence and status of women in technology and life sciences.

To find out more about WiT go to www.wit.org.au

Media contact: Sarah Smith, Women in Technology , 0405 991 282

Board bios available below.

Board Directors

Kristy Simpkin - Co-President



Kristy is a Director in the PwC Consulting practice and has been working in the ICT industry for the past 15 years. She has spent a large portion of this time in Telecommunications & Health, focusing on management of IT & Business Change Programs.

She has a passion for anything people related. This combined with the fact she has two small children has sparked a special interest in mentoring and supporting women back in to the workforce & working through the challenges of making balance work for the family unit.

au.linkedin.com/in/kristysimpkin

Alison Rice - Co-President



Alison is a creative and strategic thinker and has an analytical and practical approach to problem solving. She is an open and engaging communicator and facilitator and has a constructive and inclusive leadership style whilst being a committed and productive team player. Alison is a strong networker and relationship manager and an effective project manager taking projects from concept to deliverables.

au.linkedin.com/pub/alison-rice/43/25b/4a8

Emma Greenley - Secretary



Emma completed the WiT Board Readiness Program in 2016 and I believe, as a result of this, I am well placed to be a highly effective contributor to the outstanding work WiT is doing to impact the experience of women in technology industries. My skill set and experience as Secretariat for various government boards has given me the tools to provide high level Secretary support to WiT. I am extremely passionate about supporting the roles women play within industry. My personal values and goals to make a difference to women, have drawn me to the WiT organisation as I feel our goals and values align strongly.

au.linkedin.com/in/emma-greenley

Michelle Cheong - Treasurer



Michelle is a recruiter in the Technology industry specialising in the recruitment of Sales and Business Development roles in IT. She has a first class reputation for building great industry connections and delivering the highest of quality candidates. Results driven, Michelle delivers in a timely manner and ticks all the boxes in everything that she does. Combined with her unique team-work, attention to detail, social-based networking and commitment to truly adding value to everyone she liaises with, Michelle is a credible and safe choice for your next recruitment

need.

au.linkedin.com/in/michellecheongrecruit

Lisa Crowley - Life Sciences Committee Chair



Lisa is a Research Operations Manager with over 10 years' experience as a biomedical and clinical researcher. She completed a PhD in Medicine and Health from University College Cork (Ireland). In 2011 she moved to Brisbane to take on a biomedical post-doctoral position. During this time, she realised her passion for translational research and shifted to clinical research, choosing to concentrate on Stillbirth prevention. Lisa has always been driven to improve the research working environments, actively participating in committees including the ECR committees, User groups and mentoring. In 2014 Lisa she took an opportunity to concentrate on the operational side of research. Currently she oversees the operations of Mater Research across 3 sites. Through this she has honed skills such as project management, organization, communication and collaboration.

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Joanna Field - ICT Committee Chair



Joanna is a manager with an outstanding track record of business performance, customer relations, strategic leadership and long term planning. Her career in the IT industry has been long (21 years), 17 years with Telstra starting as a Kelly's agency employee doing data entry and moving through the business to finish as Group Manager Service Relationship before leaving in 2011 to take up a position with Dimension Data. As Field Services Manager Joanna is responsible for leading a team of technical resources in the delivery of Professional Services. These services comprise a complex array of Security & Contact Centre solutions into client environments including Banking & Finance, Government, Corporate, Insurance and Councils to name a few.

Joanna is very passionate about developing our future leaders and is doing this through the graduate program. This program is well viewed and supported by the business. Joanna also takes a lot of pride in delivering customer service excellence and thrives on customer centric roles.

au.linkedin.com/pub/joanna-field/59/768/753

Sarah Smith - Director, Marketing Communications



Sarah is a dynamic and respected business strategy and marketing communications professional. She has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors and as a business owner. Sarah drives organisational performance through targeted communications, effective stakeholder engagement and a strong commitment to continuous business improvement. Sarah delivers innovative campaigns on time, within budget and to a very high standard.

au.linkedin.com/pub/sarah-smith-nee-seckold/32/580/121

Penelope Holder - Governance & Operations



Penelope is a dedicated professional and team leader, passionate about collaborative working environments, excellent team culture and consistently improving personal and team performance. She has a strong customer focus and unwavering commitment to delivering public value through high quality government. She is a natural communicator and has the ability to build strong relationships within a diverse network of internal and external stakeholders. Penelope is extremely passionate about the health sector and am completing a Bachelor of Public Health at Queensland University of Technology and is driven to make a positive contribution to the Queensland's Public Health system to address community need and realise the vision for better health care for Queenslanders.

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Tracy Russell - Business Development



There are two things that I am passionate about. Seeing more women getting involved in technology careers and business development. I believe my career has given me a strong network and the ability to drive successful outcomes for WiT. I already contribute to WiT as a volunteer Mentor in the Mentoring Program.

au.linkedin.com/in/tracy-russell-51053b21