MEDIA RELEASE

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY RECOGNISED FOR INNOVATIVE WORK

Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur, a Sunshine Coast doctor who has developed smartphone apps that measure sunburn risk and a Gold Coast woman who founded a revolutionary events and hospitality software company are amongst the winners at the 2020 Women in Technology (WiT) Awards, held tonight (9 October).

The prestigious WiT Awards recognise outstanding talent and achievement, building support for women working in science and technology, and inspiring the next generation of leaders by showing what is possible. For the first time, the WiT Awards has three new categories with one specifically focused on celebrating women who are working in Queensland's regional, rural and remote locations.

Leanne Kemp, who was awarded the Outstanding Achievement – Technology Award, is an engineer, technologist and pioneer in emerging tech working from concept and ideation to actualisation of product. As well as serving as Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur, Ms Kemp is renowned for her work at the United Nations, OECD, World Economic Forum, Global Blockchain Business Council, World Trade Board and the IBM Blockchain Board of Advisors; she is also an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology and a two-time patent holder.

The Sunshine Coast's Dr Elke Hacker won the Innovation in Science Award for her world class research into skin cancer and her novel use of technologies, including wearables and various smartphone apps, that reliably measure UVR exposure data to alert people to sunburn risk. Over the past 10 years, she has expanded her research from in vitro lab models to human clinical studies, which have generated results that improve understanding of the relationship between sun exposure, genetic-susceptibility, and skin cancer risk.

The Gold Coast's Lauren Hall, who won the Innovation in Technology Award, has successfully built five multi-million dollar businesses across the manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and technology industries. iVvy, founded by Ms Hall in 2009, unites a highly fragmented industry by empowering communities through change, innovation and connection.

Women in Technology (WiT) President Dr Claudia Giurgiuman said it had been a unique year for the WiT Awards.

"This has been a record-breaking year for the WiT Awards, receiving over 440 nominations across 14 categories and attracting more than 400 people to the online presentation event," said Dr Giurgiuman.

"There are some extraordinary stories and revolutionary achievements are being celebrated tonight. The calibre of women nominated for these awards is outstanding," she said.

WiT Vice President Marie Howarth said WiT is a leading organisation for women in all branches of STEM in Queensland and fills an essential niche in the professional resources and support available to women.

"WiT is Australia's first organisation to bring women from all disciplines of science and technology together in a single, inclusive community," she said.

"The awards are so important because they recognise, showcase, and applaud those women who are making their mark and provide encouragement and inspiration for others to follow."

WiT Award 2020 Winners:
Further information about every winner and highly commended recipient is available by clicking here: https://wit.org.au/page-1860761

Name	Awards	Sponsor
Vivienne McCollum Dr Jodi Neal	Rural, Regional & Remote (joint winners)	The Avolution
Leanne Kemp	Outstanding Achievement – Technology	University of Queensland
Associate Professor Cori Stewart	Leadership Professional - Technology	Technology One
Vered Netzer	Leadership Professional - Technology (Highly Commended)	Technology One
Zoe Eather	Rising Star - Technology	NTT
Dr Jessica Korte	Rising Star - Technology (Highly Commended)	NTT
Valeriia Savenko	Young Achiever - Technology	PwC
Jessica Williams	Young Achiever - Technology (Highly Commended)	PwC
Professor Vicki Flenady	Outstanding Achievement - Science	QUT
Professor Sonja March	Research Leader - Science	University of Queensland
Dr Sonia Shah	Rising Star - Science	Australian Government - Dept Industry, Science, Energy & Resources
Samantha Nixon	Young Achiever - Science	Griffith University
Sammy Herbert	Community (Highly Commended)	RSL Qld
Dr Elke Hacker	Sue Wickenden Innovation in Science	Life Sciences Queensland
Bronwyn Venus	Sue Wickenden Innovation in Science (Highly Commended)	Life Sciences Queensland
Lauren Hall	Sue Wickenden Innovation in Technology	Codebots
Data #3	Employer of Choice - Corporate	WiT
SixPivot	Employer of Choice - Small to Medium	Mater Research
Genie Solutions	Employer of Choice - Small to Medium (Highly Commended)	Mater Research

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ABOUT WiT

Women in Technology (WiT) is one of Australia's most respected and active technology industry associations, dedicated to supporting, developing, recognising and promoting the achievements of women from all science and technology disciplines. The organisation delivers professional development, advocacy and networking, including exclusive mentoring and Board Readiness courses, and the prestigious annual WiT Awards.

WiT was founded in 1997 by a small group of Queensland women who came together to share their aspirations and find understanding and solutions for the unique challenges they faced as female pioneers in technology. The community now has 7600 members and affiliates and more than 24,500 supporters. To learn more about WiT visit wit.org.au.