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## September @WiT

September 2016



### A word from the President

Dear {Contact\_First\_Name}

### WiT Awards just keep getting bigger and better !

The recent 2016 WiT awards were our biggest yet - a sell-out event with 360+ guests, connecting, celebrating and dancing the night away.

We want to sincerely thank our sponsors and judges for all of their support and effort - but mostly we congratulate the everyday efforts of the nominees, finalists and winners.

We don't have too much time to bask in the glory of a successful gala awards night as planning for next year's event kicks off shortly, with nominations set to open in July. It's never too early to start thinking about who you can nominate or your own application.

2017 is set to be a special year for us here at WiT as it's our 20th year - cause for a huge celebration!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Fiona Hayes*  
WiT President



### Did You Know?

You raised a massive \$3000 to support our WiT Award Charity Partner - Bravehearts....well done everyone!



## Queensland's 2016 Women in Technology Award Winners Crowned



Queensland's science and technology movers and shakers were out in force to recognise the 2016 Women in Technology Award winners at the gala dinner on Friday 2 September at the Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane.

More than 360 people attended the prestigious awards to be inspired by Queensland's most talented women making a difference in technology and life sciences.

WiT president Fiona Hayes said she continues to be amazed by the calibre of women nominated for the awards now in their 19th year.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the awards process – we're putting these passionate, powerful women on a well deserved pedestal as role models for the future generation of women in tech and life sciences."

10 awards were presented including two new awards for outstanding women making a contribution to the field of Life Sciences or Infotech in rural or remote areas and for an outstanding female teacher/educator having positive impact on students in Infotech or Life Sciences studies.

Griffith University took out coveted Employer of Choice Award recognised for their inclusive culture, push for equality and impressive female workforce rates.

Associate Professor, AO and all round high achiever Dimity Dornan claimed the Life Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award for her ongoing commitment to life sciences through her work as founder of Hear and Say and a pioneer of human bionics.

As always the competition between universities was fierce.

## Then & Now - a history of the WiT journey

With WiT due to celebrate it's 20th year next year we thought it was the perfect time to reflect on the journey from our early beginnings to the 4600+ strong network we are today.

A trip down memory lane highlights a raft of committed women over the years, all contributing to make WiT what it is today – a supportive and inclusive organisation advancing, connecting and empowering women in technology and life sciences.

WiT began in April 1997 when Sonja Bernhardt had an idea for a network for women involved in IT & Telecommunications. An initial 'steering group' was established whose members included Jenny Beresford, Sonja Bernhardt, Anne McGill, Carolyn Hill, Bernadette Hyland, Liz Manning, Yvonne Packbier, Joanne Sherman, Glenda Slingsby, Ann Uldridge later joined by Sonya Trau and Jeanette McLeod.



pictured (L-R) Ann Uldridge, Bernadette Hyland & Sonya Trau

The network was named Women in Information Technology with a mission:

***"To sustain an active network of women in the IT&T industry, facilitating career development and promoting enhanced industry management."***

WiT was officially launched on 9 May 1997 at a breakfast function at the Polo Club in Brisbane attended by approximately 130 women.

Sonja Bernhardt served as WiT's inaugural president for the first 2 years, then once firmly established, she proudly handed the mantle over to Ann Uldridge, who was elected President at the 1999 AGM, following 12 months as Vice President. Ann managed WiT's growth over the next two years.

WiT's brand values were:

***Active! Results-oriented! Enthusiastic! Collaborative! Professional! Open! Dedicated!***

WiT grew from an idea that through networking and committed volunteers, a group of women could make a difference to the successful professional development of women in IT&T and the industry as a whole.

***The story continues!***

"This year's winners are enthusiastic, engaging and empowering others." Fiona said.

[Read more.....](#)



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## WiT Stories

Welcome to WiT Stories...each month we bring you a personal story of how one of our events or programs has made a tangible difference to the lives of our WiT Members.

### Anne Pike - Step Up to Success

The first of our WiT Stories comes from Anne Pike, Principal and My Secret EA.

At a pivotal point in a successful career she found herself questioning where she saw her career going and needed inspiration, motivation and some key tools to help with her personal brand. She attended our WiT Step Up Program and the rest is history.....

If you have a similar story to tell we would love to hear it! Email [secretariat@wit.org.au](mailto:secretariat@wit.org.au)

### Advance Queensland: Engaging Science Grants

The Engaging Science Grants are part of the [Engaging Queenslanders in Science \(PDF, 1,652KB\)](#) – a strategy with a vision to create a Queensland population that engages in and recognises, supports and advocates for science.

The grants are designed to support **scientists, researchers, science communicators, journalists, teachers, organisations and community groups** to develop and deliver science engagement

and communication projects, events and activities that align with this vision.

Findings from a recent survey, commissioned by the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, [Queenslanders' Perceptions and Attitudes to Science \(PDF\)](#) underpins the objectives of the grants.



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