

Message from the President



Happy New Year! I know it is March but here on the WIT Board we too have spent time over Christmas with family and friends, and on making sure our first event of the year is a good one. We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, and by now should be feeling good about yourselves having lost that Christmas weight and paid off the credit cards! The New Year brings with it a certain level of optimism and we are trying out some different types of events this year. Our first one falls into that category but more on that from our Events Director Sue. The Board Readiness Program is underway, and we will soon be launching our Mentoring program with improvements based on feedback last year. We look forward to your continued support and I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Regards

Lorraine Mansell, President

Opportunity Knocks!

Our Treasurer Karen Bard has moved to Perth but will be still performing her role until our AGM in June. However, to ensure a smooth transition we are looking for someone who can learn the role between now and then with the potential of becoming the Treasurer for the next financial year. If anyone is interested in this type of role, and of learning Board skills hands on, then please call me 0434 360 663 for a chat. We would prefer someone who has had some experience in a similar role and MYOB

experience would be looked upon favourably.

Thank you, Lorraine



Connect to WIT

There are a few ways that you can become more connected to WIT members and information, and the more members that sign up, the better it can be! To become connected to WIT members, you can join our groups on Facebook and LinkedIn - just look out for our logo to make sure you are in the right place.

On Facebook, simply search for the *Women in Innovation & Technology (WIT) SA* group, and click "Request to Join". On LinkedIn, search under "Groups" for the group *Women in Innovation & Technology (WIT) SA* and click "Join this group".

You can also register for a "Members Login" on the WIT-SA website to access the Members Area which has exclusive information for WIT members. To become registered on the website, you will need to fill out the form at this address:

www.wit-sa.org/site/pages/register.php

Alternatively, you can click on the "Register for Members Login" link which can be found in the right hand side panel of the website, and is shown here. Your chosen username and password will be registered and activated once the Website Administrator has confirmed that you are a current WIT member.

Members Login

Username

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

[Download members application form](#)
[Register for Members Login](#)

WIT Board Baby News!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of not one, but two babies to members of the WIT board! Karen Richardson and husband welcomed the arrival of their son Jake on December 7. More recently, Nicola Cowley and husband hailed the arrival of a sister for young Oscar – Ellen arrived on February 24.



EVENTS

Christmas '09 Event

On Wednesday 2 December 2009 we hosted our Christmas dinner at the House of Chow, Hutt Street where 30 members and friends of WIT enjoyed a delicious banquet in a private setting. Fin Designer Jewellery displayed their gorgeous selection of hand-made jewellery and guests had the opportunity to purchase some exquisite pieces using their \$20 off purchase voucher provided as a Christmas special.



2010 Panel Event: How to Get That Promotion

On Monday 1 March 2010 WIT hosted its first event for 2010. With over 25 people attending at the Minter Ellison Boardrooms it was a great opportunity to network with others & to hear from three interesting guest speakers on the topic "How to gain that Promotion".



WIT President Lorraine Mansell welcomed everyone to the luncheon and panel event & introduced the three guest speakers:

Andrew Mills, Chief Information Officer for the SA Government, leading development & implementation of across-government ICT strategy, policies, frameworks & standards, with 30 yrs experience in the public sector; Harvey Marcus, Business Manager at Ab Initio, better known for his prior role as General Manager for SA at Optus and Nick Hadjinicolaou, Senior Manager at 3Pillars who was previously the Manager and IT & Technology Projects for Business SA for the last three years with over 25 years experience in the IT industry.

Sonya Weiser, WIT Mentoring Program Director had the challenging task of asking the questions and there was plenty of interaction from the audience, with questions such as "What are three key strengths that you look for in an employee when considering a promotion and as a rule, do you find that females possess them?"

It was a fascinating panel discussion followed by a delicious lunch that generated lots of opportunity for networking and chatting afterwards, all in all a great event!

Next WIT Event – Bi-Annual Expo

When: Friday 21 May 2010
Time: 11am-3pm
Venue: The Italian Centre, Carrington Street, Adelaide (car parking available)

WIT will be hosting our first Bi-annual Expo providing members, sponsors and friends of WIT the opportunity to showcase their products or services by having a display stand. There will be time to network amongst exhibitors followed by a delicious lunch and the chance to meet the WIT Board members.

You don't have to be an exhibitor to attend the luncheon and view the businesses being displayed. More information will be provided on our website soon but mark this date in your diary so you don't miss out on this unique event.

WIT 2010 Calendar of Events

- ▶▶ **Thursday 8 April** WIT mentoring program launch, 5.30pm-7.00pm Cliftons, King William St., Adelaide
- ▶▶ **Wednesday 21 July** WIT AGM, 5.30pm-7.00pm at Cliftons, King William St., Adelaide
- ▶▶ **August** "A Healthy Balance" interactive workshop on women's health, 5.00pm-7.30pm - further details to be advised
- ▶▶ **Sunday 19 Sept** City to Bay Fun Run: WIT T-shirt for participants and bbq + drinks at end of run
- ▶▶ **October** Panel Event – details to be advised

Summer Quote

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.."Alice Walker

"Connecting women working in all areas of innovation and technology and creating a sustainable network of members focused on the advancement of women in non-traditional industries and roles."

WIT Mentoring Program: a first-hand account

Only four years after graduating from high school in Lebanon, Melissa El Khouri is well on track to fulfill her ambition of managing her own pharmaceutical company. Lebanese-born Ms El Khouri will this year complete the fourth year of her Pharmaceutical Engineering degree at University of Adelaide and after a few years in the workforce plans to complete a Masters in Business Administration.

Ms El Khouri attributes much of her confidence and sense of direction to the Women in Innovation and Technology (WIT) mentoring program.

WIT is a not for profit organisation, which strives to promote women's skills and create a sustainable network of members focused on the advancement of women in non-traditional industries and roles. "Being mentored was really good for my confidence because I had all these questions. I thought it was just me, but all the others had the same questions about once you've prepared your resume then what happens next," Ms El Khouri said. "It made me realise that we are all in this together and WIT reminded me that women can be in the top management positions and have had a lot of success in their working lives, even once they've gone back after having children.

"My mentor Sonya Weiser had done an MBA and she helped me to see it was a good way of being able to progress my career." Melissa is currently completing her internship at Hospira Pharmaceutical Company, where she is working on validating pharmaceutical equipment and helping with research. Mentoring Program Director Sonya Weiser said she believes women tended to chronically undersell themselves in the workplace, which was particularly detrimental for them in industries with male-dominated management structures. "Young women in this sector have a lot of leadership qualities but feel unsure about promoting themselves," Mrs Weiser, who runs her own management consultancy, said. "They realise 'hey I can do all that, but they don't know how to market themselves to employers'. They are talented women, so we help them gain the self-confidence to do that. "It really helps them to be mentored by someone who has been in management, who can tell them what employers look for, who can look at their resume and say 'this bit reads well and you should focus more on this'. "We also build their networks which give them leads for job opportunities. A couple of protégés from last year have won internship placements through the contacts we helped them make."

Mrs Weiser says there are also major benefits for the mentors themselves. "Although you might be 20 years older than some of the protégés, you sometimes feel the same doubts about our confidence and promoting yourself. "But having protégés look up to you is a lovely experience and reminds you of what you have achieved. It's helped me grow as a person in my own self-worth."

2010 WIT Mentoring program

Apply Now

Calling all mentors and protégés interested in joining us for the 2010 WIT mentoring program!

The successful and popular WIT mentoring program is getting underway again soon for 2010. Since its inception in 2005, 80 female final year university students in Information Technology, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences have been mentored in this program designed to cater for a select few. Many of the program graduates have been successful in obtaining good jobs as a result of what they have learnt through the program. A number of protégés advised that as a direct outcome of this program they found employment. This program is FREE for protégés and mentors who meet our selection requirements and runs from April through to October 2010. There are limited places available in the program, so act now to reserve your place!

Whilst applications have closed for protégés, expressions of interest from mentors will be accepted until March 15th. You can download the EOI form and your copy of the events calendar from the website here:

<http://www.wit-sa.org/site/pages/programs.php>

Board Readiness Program

The Board Readiness Program was kicked off in February for its third consecutive year! We are very pleased that the program continues to get support from Oracle, Microsoft and Minter Ellison. We also still have fantastic support from our guest speakers and mentors as well.

This year we have brought on some additional help and I wish to thank Kathy Parsons who was a mentor last year for putting her hand up to provide more support to the program.

Kathy is co-chairing this year and has already made her mark on the program by expanding it to three workshops instead of just the two. This expansion will allow our candidates to be more effective in evaluating potential boards and to be more effective on the board(s) that they get accepted to.

In addition, we have developed half day quarterly workshops for our program graduates. This has been done at the request of the graduates to keep in touch and to support one another while they continue to learn and develop. It is a very positive reflection on the program that the candidates want to have it continue in this manner. Minter Ellison and the Office for Women are helping to support these half day workshops through donation of conference rooms. The first workshop will be held on the 25th of March and we will have Kevin Newbold in to talk about the 'male' perspective of women on boards and what are the hurdles they need to overcome to be successful.

Karen Bard

