Awards honour Brisbane role models

Women in technology and science are having a significant impact on everything from bone marrow transplants to mining. Their efforts were recognised at the 12th annual Women in Technology Awards, held at Brisbane's Tivoli on Saturday 29th August.

Special guest the Honourable Karen Struthers, Minister for Women and Minister for Community Services and Housing, and 250 industry guests attended the 1920s themed Gala to hear about the inspiring achievements of the eight winners (see full list below).

The Women in Technology Awards recognise the achievements of women working in the information technology and biotechnology industries. In its lifetime, 88 awards have been made with the winners sharing in over $570,000 in cash and prizes, and achieving recognition for excellence in their field.

"Throughout history many brilliant women have not been recognised for their incredible contributions to science and technology," said Anne-Marie Birkill, President of WiT. "The WiT awards aim to ensure the current cohort of female scientists and technologists are recognised and rewarded for their achievements and to identify wonderful role models for men and women working or aspiring to work in technology."

For the first time in 2009 WiT has awarded an Employer of Choice, a new category sponsored by the Queensland Government Office for Women. This award was made to the Mining Industries Skills Centre in recognition of its commitment to providing both men and women with a supportive and flexible work environment.

The winners of the 2009 WiT Awards are:

**Biotech Rising Star Award Sponsored by IHBI**
Hannah Cullup
Mater Medical Research Institute
Suburb: Arana Hills

**Biotech Research Award Sponsored by UQ**
Yvonne Buckley
School of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland
Suburb: St Lucia

**Biotech Outstanding Achievement Award Sponsored by QCTN**
Zee Upton
QUT Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Suburb: Kelvin Grove

**Employer of Choice Award Sponsored by the Office for Women**
Mining Industry Skills Centre Inc – Derek Hunter
Suburb: Spring Hill

**ICT Professional Award Sponsored by UNISYS**
Katherine Dann
Department of Education and Training
Suburb: Fairfield

**ICT Outstanding Achievement Award Sponsored by Optus**
Sonja Bernhardt
ThoughtWare
Suburb: Helensvale

**PhD Career Start Award Sponsored by Griffith**
Therese Seldon
Mater Medical Research Institute
Suburb: South Brisbane

**Executive Award Sponsored by 3W**
Barbara Tobin
Queensland Youth Orchestra
Suburb: Stafford Heights

What do the Women in Technology Awards achieve?

- Recognise and reward talented women working in the technology industries.
- Raise awareness of the diversity the technology workforce.
- Promote organisations and companies involved in and supporting WiT, through scholarship sponsorship.
- Encourage young women to pursue a technology career.
- Identify role models for women and men working or aspiring to work in the technology industries.