



**Australian
Women in
Computing**



**Newsletter
June
2006**



In this Edition: Events, Conferences, News Articles, ACS & ACM News.

This newsletter is brought to you by the ACM-W (Association of Computing Machinery Women) and ACS-W (Australian Computer Society Women).

It is also available at www.austwic.org. Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Events

IT Screen Goddess Calendar Official Launch - Melbourne

Where and When:

Friday 11th August
Young & Jackson Hotel, 1 Swanston St, Melbourne
12.30 – 1.30 pm
Cost: \$5.00
Canapes and drinks will be served.

Calendars on sale at the venue for \$19.95

Guests MUST register to attend: email linda.batson@acslink.net.au before 9th August.

Join ACS President Philip Argy and Calendar models Anastasia Govan and Linda Batson for the official launch of this ground-breaking project.

Why?

The **IT Screen Goddesses Calendar** features beautiful photos of real women working in the IT industry, in poses inspired by movie goddesses old and recent. *Profits from the sale of this calendar will be distributed among organisations promoting careers in IT for women and girls.*

We're doing this to:

- Smash through the perception of the geeky technologist
- Generate media sensation to put a spotlight on the industry and increase national interest and awareness
- Raise awareness of the diversity of Women in IT
- Raise money for non profit groups that run initiatives to encourage females to take up technology studies and to enter technology careers
- Promote organisations and companies involved in and supporting IT, through sponsorship/promotional opportunities on each page of the calendar.

Special price available for pre-orders plus a "Sneak Peek" at <http://www.itgoddess.info/>

Women's Summer Outreach Program 2006

Following on from GNOME's participation in Google's Summer of Code, we've decided to sponsor three projects in a similar fashion to the Summer of Code, but for women only. GNOME had no Summer of Code applications from women, and we think it's time to do something to encourage more women to join our development community.

How can I help?

To send a message or submission to the Newsletter editors for the next edition email Catherine Lang (clang@swin.edu.au) or Linda Batson (linda.batson@acslink.net.au)

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First and foremost, we need you to spread the word! If you know any women who might be interested, whether they're students of computer science or another field, please tell them about the program! If you're near a CS department, we'd be thrilled if you could ask to have our poster (PNG, PDF, SVG) put up. Do let us know that you've done it so that we can follow up with the department. Thanks!

<http://www.gnome.org/projects/wsop/>

University of Melbourne Seeks Project Proposals

The Department of Information Systems at the University of Melbourne is currently seeking project proposals from Melbourne based organisations. Teams of final year Information Systems students will work on IT related projects for one semester, free of charge.

For more information on projects, and how to submit a proposal, please go to

www.dis.unimelb.edu.au/projects/index.html

or email iprojects@staff.dis.unimelb.edu.au. All other enquiries regarding projects please phone Louisa Wilson, Monday to Wednesdays on 8344 1503.

Proposal submission deadline is Friday 30th June 2006.

IT Victoria - Celebrating 50 Years of Computing in Victoria

The IT Victoria web site is now live. For Events and news go to

<http://www.itvictoria.net/>

2006 Nature awards for mentoring in science

We are delighted to announce a new award for Australasia this year: the Nature awards for mentoring in science. Following a successful inauguration in the UK in 2005, Nature will be sponsoring awards for high-achieving mentors in Australasia in 2006. The awards are now open for nominations and the closing date is 31 July.

In each region there will be two prizes awarded: one for a lifetime's achievement in mentoring, and another to an individual in the middle of his or her career. The prizes are intended to celebrate a scientific activity that otherwise tends to get taken for granted. Nomination forms and more details can be found on the Nature Australasia mentoring awards page.

<http://info.nature.com/cgi-bin24/DM/y/eYOm0BfTI20DHy02nX0ER>

Conferences

Young IT Conference

The 2006 ACS National Young IT Conference will feature quality speakers from within the IT sector and opportunities for networking. It provides an excellent opportunity for young IT professionals and students to learn and engage with their peers in a social and professional environment, whilst acquiring knowledge and skills that will advance their careers.

If you are a Manager of young IT professionals or know of any one who may benefit from participating in the conference, you may wish to refer them to the ACS web site at www.acs.org.au/youngit/2006conference for information and registration details for the 2006 ACS National Young IT Conference.

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Second Call for Papers: AusWIT 2006: partICipaTion one year on

10th Australian Women in IT Conference
December 4 & 5, 2006
Adelaide, South Australia

<http://www.auswit.org/>

One year on from the Federal Government's partICipaTion Summit we invite industry representatives, academics, researchers and students involved in women in information technology to meet and share programs, discuss strategies and assess progress.

The Summit was held in Sydney, 22 September 2005 ;
http://www.dcita.gov.au/ict/events_and_forums/participation_summit

AusWIT has a mission of informing, sharing, community building, and re-energising those involved in the recruitment and retention of women in information technology.

Submissions for Papers and Panels are invited for the following streams:

- Programs in action – in particular those supported by grants (ARC or other).
- Curriculum enrichment – within university and/or school education.
- Mentoring initiatives – horizontal and vertical, within institutions or across.
- Industry initiatives – diversity programs and education connections.
- School programs – links with community and education institutions.

Full academic papers submitted to AusWIT 2006 will be peer-reviewed (E1 Standard) by national and/or international experts. The proceedings will be published with an ISBN number and will be made available to non-attendees. A number of selected papers will be fast-tracked for a special edition of AJIS.

Non academic participants may prefer to submit a presentation proposal of one to two pages providing a synopsis of what the proposed talk will cover. Such proposals will not be peer-reviewed but will be considered by the conference committee for their suitability.

Important Dates:

- **Full paper submission 14 July, 2006**
- **Presentation proposals 30 July, 2006**
- Submission of **panel proposals 30 July, 2006**
- Notification of acceptances 1 September, 2006
- Final camera-ready copy 30 September, 2006
- Main Conference 4 & 5 December, 2006

AusWIT is timed to run before ACIS which commences on 6 December in Adelaide. Delegates are encouraged to consider combining the two conferences.

News

Young Professional of the Year 2006 - Anastasia Govan

Last year, South Australian member, Debbie Timmins, was named the inaugural Young Professional of the Year by Professions Australia

<http://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=notice&temID=noticedetails¬ID=378>

This year I have great pleasure to inform you that our Anastasia Govan, YIT Board Director, was elected

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as the Young Professional of the Year by Professions Australia. This was announced at the Professions Australia AGM yesterday. This is a great honour for Ana and the ACS. Not only as her work is being recognised, the image of the ACS and ICT sector is being enhanced as a young and female friendly image is perceived.

I am sure that you would agree with me that Anastasia Govan brought an extraordinary level of enthusiasm and energy to the strategic activities that led to the formation of a YIT Board as part of the ACS Council. Despite being based in Darwin, she was able to motivate interested young ICT professionals and marshal significant resources to stage a the new Board's first event, a national ACS Young IT Conference which was an outstanding success. Thanks to Ana's commitment and leadership, that event has continued to develop, with a third Conference <https://www.acs.org.au/youngit/2006conference/> to be held this year.

Dennis Furini – CEO ACS

Laptops in Schools

More than 1,750 teachers in Tasmanian schools and colleges will receive laptop computers over the next two months, according to the State Government. The roll-out is part of a Tasmanian Government programme to provide all teachers with laptops. This programme allotted more than 3,350 laptops in 2005. More info:
<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=17914>

Boards still ignorant of IT: survey

Most company boards operate without any of the directors having a working knowledge of what impact or advantage information technology can have on their business. Company directors still lack IT savvy and understanding and few CIOs find a seat on the board, according to new research conducted by a recruitment firm.

In a survey of the top 200 Australian companies, Talent2 found fewer than 5 percent of directors displayed any level of knowledge enabling them to provide support and guidance in IT strategy, and fewer than 3 percent have CIOs on the board.

Con Colovos, CIO Executive Council executive director, described the survey's findings as "headline grabbing", but acknowledged the council is working on similar figures, which "highlights just how bad it really is".

"The figures are indicative of an industry problem," Colovos said, adding that CIO Executive Council members estimate about 20 percent of CIOs are sitting on boards.

"There aren't many CIOs on boards in Australia, which is why the Australian Institute of Company Directors is developing programs to get CIOs on boards," he said.

Colovos said the institute will offer courses to define director's duties so CIOs can learn responsibilities around regulation and legislation. The courses will be available in the second half of the year.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=532211121&eid=-257>

Scholarship supports women in IT

A \$45,000 scholarship is a great fillip to an IT career and that's what first-year multimedia student Rim Beaini was awarded last week in the inaugural Deakin-Coles Myer IT Scholarship for Women.

The Victorian government contributed \$15,000 to the scholarship which gives Beaini a two-year industry project with Coles Myer, including a three-week vacation placement this year, and a six-month industry internship next year.

The state's Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Marsha Thomson, presented the award, which is designed to encourage women into the ICT field.

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"The Bracks government has collaborated with Deakin University and Coles-Myer to offer this very talented young woman a fantastic opportunity as part of our \$1.9 million ICT scholarships package," Thomson said.

"Our ICT Industry Skills Scholarships work to link study and industry based learning to ensure students graduate job-ready.

"These scholarships also support students to gain business skills and commercial know-how, addressing one of the main workforce development needs of today's ICT sector."

Ms Beaini, of Dandenong, said she had always dreamed of pursuing a career in ICT.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=718799035&eid=-257>

Jobs Notice Board

Job Opportunity in Silicon Valley
Rubicon Consulting, Inc.
Senior Associate, Go-to-Market Strategy

We've asked some people we respect to circulate this job description. It's a rare opportunity to join a respected, dynamic high tech consultancy as a senior leader in one of our practices. The ideal candidate is an expert at bringing high tech products to market for end-users and small businesses (as opposed to IT managers). You know what works and what doesn't, and you have the scars to prove it. You know all the elements of the consumer/prosumer marketing mix, including PR, pricing, collateral, online, events, co-marketing, direct mail, advertising, channel selection, and product launches.

Job description at www.rubiconconsulting.com

ACS

ICT Governance Special Interest Group

Because of the growing importance of ICT Governance, some ASC Victorian Branch members have expressed an interest in forming an ICT Governance Special Interest Group. On a national level, the ACS has a particular interest in ICT Governance and the Victorian Branch is keen to help form a SIG and provide support. SIGs hold regular meetings, generally with guest speakers, to discuss areas of interest.

If ICT Governance is of interest to you and you would like to be part of the Special Interest Group, email: tom.rose@acsvic.com

Academic conference rankings

Currently a ranking exercise is underway of all computer conferences. While two conferences that often have gender in computing streams are listed (SIGCSE and AMCIS) there is no mention of any specific women in computing conferences.

If you believe that women in computing conferences help our cause then please have a word to your HoS asap to get them to include some or all of the following on their lists; AusWIT; GASAT; Grace Hopper; QualIT.

<http://www.auswit.org/>

<http://www.gasat-international.org/>

<http://www.gracehopper.org/>

<http://www.gu.edu.au/conference/qualit2006/>

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ACM

Girls love science at tech camp

Each year, girls from Adelante Spanish Immersion Elementary School in Redwood City and Costao Elementary in East Palo Alto are selected to attend the camp, where they get to do everything from mixing chemicals to tearing apart computers to making GPS maps.

Just 18 percent of scientists and engineers in the United States are women, according to the National Science Foundation. Furthermore, women represent 20 percent or less of graduates with majors in engineering, physics, computer science and other related fields.

Full article at: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_3962265

High Schools Fail to Meet Needs of Tech-Driven World

TechWeb (06/12/06) Jones, K.C.

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has reported that students are required to take computer science in just 26 percent of U.S. schools. While many schools note that students do not have room in their schedules for computing courses, the misperception that computers are simply tools for browsing the Web or playing video games also keeps enrollment down.

The report highlights successful programs in Canada, Israel, Scotland, South Africa, and the United States. It also details a national curriculum and implementation plan. For more information on CSTA, visit <http://csta.acm.org/>

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