



2015 Women in Technology awards – finalists announced

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The 2015 Women in Technology awards finalists are experienced, accomplished and inspiring.

From pioneering lifesaving medical research to running successful global businesses and driving innovation in the public sector, Queensland women are leading the way in technology and life sciences.

This year award nominations were up 50% across nine award categories. The 27 judges had an extremely difficult job narrowing down the nominees to just 30 finalists.

WIT president Fiona Hayes said the awards, now in their 18th year, continue to grow.

“The WIT awards are about celebrating women who are experts in their fields and succeeding in male dominated technology and life science positions.

“These women are exceptional role models for young women considering a career in technology or life sciences.

“Their stories are inspirational – many juggling young families and dealing with personal and professional challenges along the way” Fiona said.

Winners will be announced at the 18th Annual WIT Gala Awards on Friday 28 August 2015 at the Royal International Convention Centre. This year for the first time ever the event will also be live streamed at <http://livestream.com/tuckerproductions/witqld18th>

Sponsors and supporters include the Queensland Government, QUT, UQ, Origin, QUT ihbi, GBST, Datacom, HP, Atech MEGAMON and Davidson Technology.

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All finalists and WIT President Fiona Hayes are available for interviews. Full list of finalists and bios provided below.

What is WIT?

Advance | Connect | Empower

WIT is the peak industry body for women in technology and life sciences within Queensland. WIT's vision is to advance, connect and empower women in technology and life sciences. Founded in 1997 with the support of just 10 women WIT is now a strong network of more than 3270 subscribers, members and affiliates. WIT runs events, mentoring, programs and awards.

- ✓ Board Readiness – gaining the skills needed in the boardroom
- ✓ Mentoring – one-on-one support and guidance
- ✓ Step Up Program – getting ahead, moving up in your career
- ✓ Outreach – promoting ICT and life sciences careers to young girls

For more information go to www.wit.org.au

Our finalists (bios on following pages)

Employer of Choice Award

Information Services, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation

Professional Award

Chelsea Cornelius, Analytica Ltd
Elissa Farrow, About Your Transition
Dr Taflina Ramos, K.J.Ross & Associates
Katie Richards, Virtual Legal Pty Ltd

Infotech Outstanding Achievement Award

Dr Leila Alem, Thoughtworks
Julie Cleeton, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
Karen Gibson, The Checkley Group
Heidi Uytendaal, Rio Tinto

Infotech Research Award

Dr Qin Li, Queensland Micro-and Nontechnology Centre, Griffith University
Leigh Ellen Potter, School of ICT, Griffith University

Rising Star Award

Dr Melina Georgousakis, Franklin Women/ National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
Genevieve Healy, School of Population Health, University of Queensland
Dr Erica Mealy, Queensland University of Technology
Michelle Tianqing Liu, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Life Sciences Research Award

Professor Michele Burford, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University
Kerrie Wilson, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland
Associate Professor Ingrid Winkler, Mater Research, University of Queensland
Associate Professor Mia Woodruff, Queensland University of Technology

Life Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award

Associate Professor Dimity Dornan AO, Hear and Say
Professor Lyn Griffiths, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology
Professor Pamela Russell, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

PhD Career Start Award

Colleen Corrigan, University of Queensland
Gillian Fisher, Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University
Angie Jarrad, University of Queensland
Marie-Luise Wille, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

Sue Wickenden Entrepreneurial Award

Katie Richards, Virtual Legal Pty Ltd
Karen Sanders, Real Serious Games

Bios

Employer of Choice Award - *For the employer demonstrating commitment to providing an outstanding working environment for women*

Information Services, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

Information Services is the ICT arm of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. There are currently 273 permanent and temporary staff engaged in Information Services which is made up of 169 (61.9%) women and 104 (38.1%) men which equates to a ratio of 1.6 :1. There is a ratio of 1:1 in senior management roles.

Information Services is committed to providing all employees with access to flexible work arrangements to assist in achieving a healthy work/life balance. Staff have access to flexible work arrangements such as accrued time off, part time employment, compressed hours and telecommuting as per the Department's Flexible Work Arrangements Policy. All staff in Information Services have access to job rotations, mentoring, staff awards and recognition.

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

QIMR Berghofer values the excellent contribution women make to the Institute, to medical research and to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in general.

At QIMR Berghofer women make up 62.10% of the total workforce and 58.02% of students. As at 30 June 2015, there were a total of 319 females and 199 males on staff on fixed-term/permanent employment. Of the casual workforce, 64 staff were females and 33 were male. At QIMR Berghofer: Women hold 34.5% of all scientific leadership positions 20.% of QIMR Berghofer Council is female 33.3% of the Support Management Team is female; this includes the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer.

QIMR Berghofer promotes gender equality and has flexible working hours, job-share and part-time employment options to assist with balancing work and personal lives. QIMR Berghofer has secured a number of places with a local childcare centre for infants under the age of two years to assist employees returning to the workforce after becoming a parent.

Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI)

Total number of staff 368.48. 38.5% female. In the senior staff roles – senior scientists and managers - 28.4%.

The Science Division of DSITI has a strong focus on providing the best possible opportunities for staff to balance their life and work arrangements. DSITI recognise that it is important to retain highly skilled staff as their lives change with added family responsibilities. Flexible work arrangements policy and procedure and includes compressed hours, cultural leave, job sharing, lactation breaks, carers leave, parental leave, purchased leave, staggered start and finish times, telecommuting and time off in lieu.

DSITI runs a program called "Women connect" which is designed to ensure women within the Department are effectively networked with one another and have access to opportunities for development and ultimately promotion. DSITI also runs a mentoring program to help people realise their fullest potential by providing an opportunity to engage in a mentoring partnership with a more experienced colleague.

Professional Award - *For women with more than 7 years but less than 15 years industry experience.*

Chelsea Cornelius, Analytica Ltd

Chelsea was the lead engineer in developing the PeriCoach - a pelvic floor exercise aide for women. The PeriCoach is an easy-to-use, clinician-recommended, home personal trainer device and app to manage and monitor pelvic floor exercises allowing users to keep track of their progress and set realistic goals for. This data management system also enables their treating clinician – GP, physiotherapist, urogynaecologist etc - to log on to a portal and monitor their patient’s progress remotely.

“Although the engineering industry has come a long way with attracting more female engineers, there's still a significant distance to go before the pendulum starts to swing, and therein lies an amazing opportunity to recruit and retain skilled professionals. I believe biomedical engineering in particular is a very attractive and rewarding career path for women, and the industry is screaming out for more advancement within Australia especially.

“Since the engineering industry is still quite male-dominated, female high school students are not immediately attracted to or aware of the opportunities for them in this field. Women bring a unique approach to engineering, and I believe the advancement of technology will benefit remarkably when we achieve a better balance.” Chelsea said.

Elissa Farrow, About Your Transition

Elissa has extensive experience in strategic organisational change, portfolio, program and project management. She is a sought after international speaker, consultant, trainer and coach. Elissa is a global thought leader in organisational governance and strategy delivery and runs a successful consulting and training business with clients globally, assisting them to mobilise technology and other improvements to achieve greater outcomes. Elissa is the current Global Country Representative of the Change Management Institute and the Director of Ethics for the International Institute of Project Coaching.

“Listen to your mentors. Don't be afraid of taking well planned risks. You can always ask. Networks are important. Loving self and being kind and ethical is critical. Have a break to re-energise”, Elissa said.

Dr Tafline Ramos, K.J.Ross & Associates

Tafline has played a vital role in the international standardisation for software and systems engineering. Her work has provided the software testing community around the world with an internationally agreed set of concepts, processes, documentation, and techniques for software testing. Tafline is also chair of the Software and Systems Engineering committee at Standards Australia.

Tafline highlights the travel, income and pure enjoyment that can be derived from working in the ICT industry. “In my career I have been fortunate enough to be able to travel around Australia and internationally.

“Never settle for second best! If you have a dream goal in mind for your career, be determined and don't give up until you achieve your dreams and beyond. For my future career choices, this means I will strive to achieve a successful work-life balance so that I can continue to further my career in software testing, whilst still spending quality time with my family.” Tafline said.

Katie Richards, Virtual Legal Pty Ltd

Katie is CEO and founder of Virtual Legal. Katie created the company so that the community has equality in access to legal services, regardless of what they earn or where they live. Virtual Legal provides significant flexibility for their team members who are located all over Australia, some working from home and all with flexible working conditions.

“The biggest lesson for me to learn was that I don't need to be the best in my industry to have an impact - I just need to ask a lot of questions and never give up on achieving my vision.

“I also have learned the value in supporting one another and constantly coming from a position of giving, as we tend to receive 10 fold from people who are just like us, but initially nervous to connect.

“I have learned to fail forward - the faster I can make my mistakes and keep going, the sooner I and my company will achieve the level of success we aim for and create a better world” Katie said

Infotech Outstanding Achievement Award - For women making a significant contribution to the growth and development of Queensland's life sciences industry who serve as role models for others to aspire to (15 years or more experience).

Dr Leila Alem, Thoughtworks

Leila has led the User Interaction and Collaboration research team within CSIRO digital productivity and services flagship program. Leila has won three state innovation awards, Insect Scan won 2014 ACT iAward in R&D, ReMoTe won 2013 NSW iAward in R&D and RIDES won 2009 ACT iAward in e-health. Other achievements include successful commercialization of two collaborative ICT technology platforms.

“I am a mother of two and an academic. I have promised myself to never let anyone stop me from doing what I wanted to do, including myself. I always stand up for what is important to me. My success is largely due to having a supportive husband and securing support from my colleagues and managers.

“I enjoy immensely my kids and I do take the time to be involved in their activities and their life as that’s my priority. I don’t try to do it all and get all the help I can get.” Leila said.

Julie Cleeton, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation

Julie is an accomplished Program Director with a proven track record in leading multi-disciplinary teams to identify, action and deliver program and project outcomes aligned to strategic goals. She is experienced with executive management and engagement to deliver sponsorship and buy-in especially for high-value, politically sensitive initiatives. Julie has successfully led the procurement stage of a high value strategic ICT initiative designed to deliver “anywhere, anytime and any device” capability for the Qld Government.

“Go above and beyond your boundaries and strive for performance excellence and outstanding service. I work to deliver to client expectations without compromising my own goals or that of my organisation.

“I use a collaborative team approach for delivery so that at any stage any team member can deliver the activities of other team members and deliver a quality outcome. I align team members to maximise strengths and cross skills transfer to ensure team members are supported and have the opportunity to develop” Julie said.

Karen Gibson, The Checkley Group

Karen is focused on strategically changing the way the health sector uses ICT to support better sharing of information to improve patient care and outcomes. Karen led a project to conceptualise and establish one of the first electronic discharge summaries in the State and a clinical data repository. These two systems have continued to evolve over time and now support Queensland Health’s State-wide discharge summary and clinical viewer which are used in every Queensland public hospital every day.

Karen has a leadership role in the national initiative to establish a personal health record, and to establish standards and technologies by which information can be exchanged and safely interpreted electronically. She has also led the establishment of a national health terminology service and was founding Vice Chair of the IHTSDO (an international standards organisation created to support common standards for the language of healthcare). Karen is also Deputy Chair on the Health Informatics Society of Australia Board of Management.

“Be true to yourself. Understand your goals and aspirations. Women are renowned for being good at multi-tasking, but that sometimes means we take on too much and end up with sub-optimal outcomes for all. Decide what’s really important to you and then ‘go for it’” Karen said.

Heidi Uytendaal, Rio Tinto

Heidi has worked as a SAP consultant, Integration lead and Quality Manager involved in the method, mechanics and process of delivering large, integrated and complex projects. Heidi has helped define, document, train and govern key delivery methodology for projects in both BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto. She has continuously improved Quality Assurance through consistent processes and the mentoring of a passionate delivery team. Heidi is responsible for all global changes within the Business Solution being moved through systems into production, covering multiple timezones, 10 releases a year and over 400 quality assessments for system changes.

“BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.....Be proud of what you do, and don't undersell your job or yourself” Heidi said.

Infotech Research Award - *For women making a recognised contribution to the field of ICT research and development.*

Dr Qin Li, Queensland Micro-and Nontechnology Centre, Griffith University

Qin has pioneered work on carbon quantum dots which is poised to replace traditional semiconductor quantum dots such as CdSe and CdPb that pose significant threat to human health and environment. Through our research we will bring carbon quantum dots to practical applications in bioimaging, information storage, chemical sensing, LEDs, and light harvesting. Carbon quantum dots have now become an extremely active field, attracting hundreds of enthusiastic researchers in the world. Qin completed a Marie Curie Fellowship at Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research.

Leigh Ellen Potter, School of ICT, Griffith University

Leigh's research has been conducted in user experience, emerging technology, and project management. Leigh is the team lead for the Seek and Sign project, established to develop technologies to enhance the communication environments of very young Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and to explore design issues with that client group. The project is recognised internationally and Leigh is considered an expert in this area. Leigh is also team lead for the Emerging Experiences Lab a new research project working with emerging technology.

Rising Star Award - For women with less than 7 years industry experience in ICT or Life Sciences.

Dr Melina Georgousakis, Franklin Women/ National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance

Melina is a health and medical researcher in the field of vaccine development. Her PhD was in the design of novel vaccine candidates for the bacteria group a streptococcus, which overcome some of the barriers in delivering vaccines to developing country settings. Melina provides technical advice to the Commonwealth Department of Health on vaccine policies through support of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation. She was involved in policy for the expansion of the national HPV vaccine program to include adolescent boys. Melina is also the technical editor of Australia's national guideline on immunisation, The Australian Immunisation Handbook. Melina was recognised for her science communication as a QLD finalist for Young Australian of the Year. Melina has also established a professional community for women in health and medical research field, called Franklin Women.

Genevieve Healy, School of Population Health, University of Queensland

Genevieve is raising international awareness on the amount we sit and how prolonged sitting impacts on health. Genevieve's PhD findings on the importance of regularly interrupting sitting time for heart health ("the breaks hypothesis") have been incorporated into public health guidelines in several countries including Australia, the USA, and the UK. The "breaks" concept has also been incorporated into wearable technologies, including the Apple iWatch. Genevieve is one of the lead investigators on the Stand Up Australia program of work – a program aimed at understanding and reducing prolonged sitting in the workplace. Genevieve is committed to making a meaningful difference to health and wellbeing, and to mentor and train the next generations of researchers.

Dr Erica Mealy, Queensland University of Technology

Erica is a researcher focusing on user centred design and wearable technology. Erica has designed and developed teaching and outreach activities and has obtained over \$30,000 in grants to support these activities. Erica is committed to influencing the next generation of ICT students and software engineers through quality and innovative teaching, mentorship and outreach activities.

"I believe it is through networks and relationships that such funding support is obtained, maintained and maximised - there are few things as valuable as networks and relationships. Aside from allowing you to make influential contributions to society through impactful research, networks give you access to invaluable alternate perspectives. Networks and relationships open doors that otherwise would be closed." Erica said.

Michelle Tianqing Liu, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Michelle is a young and ambitious researcher focused on developing cutting-edge nanomedicines which can target certain organs for drug delivery. Her work has been highly productive and recognised internationally (10 original research publications, including six first author articles in leading journals in the field). Michelle has received a seed funding grant (\$25,000) which is designed to be awarded to early stage (pre-Team Head) researchers. Michelle is a steering committee member of Australia Chinese Association for Biomedical Science (ACABS)-Queensland Node and a committee member of Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)-Queensland.

Life Sciences Research Award - *For women making a recognised contribution to the field of Life Sciences research and development.*

Professor Michele Burford, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University

Michele is a highly regarded bio-geochemist and ecologist who proactively drives translation of her scientific discoveries into on-the-ground change. Since completing her PhD in 2001, Michele has published 71 peer reviewed papers, three book chapters, her research has been cited over 1786 times and she has played a lead role in securing and managing over \$10M of successful research grants. She repeatedly succeeds in the challenge of leading effective, inter-disciplinary research teams whilst working with end-users such as government, industry and community, to ensure that the work is relevant and to support implementation of the knowledge. As a result, her science achieves the incredibly complex, system-scale understanding of problems associated with water quality, combined with the ability to make a positive impact for society and the environment.

Kerrie Wilson, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland

Kerrie's research informs conservation spending at global, national, and local levels. Early in her research career Kerrie led an Australia-wide prioritisation project for the Federal Department of Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts. The underlying theory and data from this project has had broad implications for how the sector operates and has since been used by CSIRO, State and Federal Environment Departments, and NGOs. Kerrie is the UQ node leader of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions and is regularly engaged in scientific and community service roles ensuring that her research directly translates into practical outcomes.

Associate Professor Ingrid Winkler, Mater Research, University of Queensland

Ingrid is a Senior Research Fellow and head of the Stem Cells and Cancer group at Mater Research, Brisbane, Australia. Ingrid is responsible for important research into normal stem cells. Ingrid has patented novel strategies to improve effectiveness of standard cancer therapies aiming for a cure, boost harvest of stem cells for transplant and alleviate the life-threatening side-effects of chemotherapy so patients, their families and community can rapidly return to a normal life. The high impact of Ingrid's research has been recognised by the Australian Government as 'Ten of the Best Research Projects in Australia' (NHMRC, 2013) and 'Outstanding Achievement Award' (NHMRC CDA, 2011). Ingrid is a 'Stem Cell High Flyer' (Theo Murphy Think Tank). Ingrid was awarded a prestigious DAAD scholarship to Heidelberg Germany to learn from world experts in the field. She was also an ambassador for Australian science at the G20 summit 2014, Qld Science week 2014 and for Qld scientists at International Women's Day 2015.

"Definitely the most rewarding experience a researcher can hope for is knowing that their research is helping people. Just as my supervisor was mentioning I should give up research, I placed my discoveries on his desk. Seeing his shock, then gradual awe, was definitely one of the best moments of my life. Cutting edge research involves the inner-confidence to take risks, to trust your own vision and to be prepared to stand by the consequences of your decisions.

"My second most challenging experience, as with most mothers, has been thinking smart to regain competitiveness after two years parental leave as primary carer with two kids. All my greatest discoveries have been since my return" Ingrid said.

Associate Professor Mia Woodruff, Queensland University of Technology

Mia has an international reputation in the rapidly advancing field of biomaterials and biofabrication (3d printing body parts) and specifically bone tissue engineering. Mia was one of the youngest senior lecturers at QUT promoted to Associate Professor (2013). Mia has featured extensively in the media and has also presented at TEDx.

"I hope to drive the potential of biofabrication as a key player in the future of regenerative medicine, into the public's consciousness. This is especially important when we consider the millions of people suffering tissue loss through trauma, cancer and congenital defects every year; our technology aims to restore functionality to these patients, improving their quality of life."

Mia is heavily involved in the Science in Schools and STEM high school initiatives.

"After a week residential high school camp, to receive letters from the young scientists (usually girls!) saying that their week was the best of their lives and they want to study bioengineering and be "just like you" and asking me to be their mentor, is an unbeatable feeling." Mia said.

Life Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award - For women making a significant contribution to the growth and development of Queensland's life sciences industry who serve as role models for others to aspire to (15 years or more experience).

Associate Professor Dimity Dornan AO, Hear and Say

Dimity started Hear and Say 23 years ago and it is now one of the leading paediatric Auditory-Verbal and Implantable Technologies (including cochlear implants) organisations in the world, teaching children who are deaf to hear, listen and speak. Dimity provided input into the roll-out of Newborn Hearing Screening across every hospital in Queensland, provided the world's first comprehensive training for teaching professionals in Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) and established a Research and Innovation arm of Hear and Say. Dimity has expanded Hear and Say to open a state-of-the-art building and facilities to meet future demand and as a gateway for Queensland's excellence in neuroscience, bio technology, education and e-health. Dimity was the 2011 Telstra Business Woman of the Year Queensland and 2010 Suncorp Queenslander of the Year.

"My advice to others is the combination of technology in conjunction with the formation of partnerships to increase global impact is the way to best develop so our business lives and futures are sustainable" Dimity said.

Professor Lyn Griffiths, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

Lyn's research has focused on the identification of genes involved in common complex chronic disorders including migraine, cardiovascular disease and cancer, with particular emphasis on the development of improved diagnostic testing and treatments. In 1999 Lyn established the Genomics Research Centre diagnostic facility to undertake neurogenetic testing for severe migraine and related disorders, the only laboratory nationally and one of only a few internationally, to provide this service. Karen is the Executive Director of the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT's largest interdisciplinary research institute.

"My advice would be to maintain your professionalism, your sense of humour and always to treat others, as you would like to be treated" Lyn said.

Professor Pamela Russell, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

Pamela is a leading health and biomedical researcher. She has worked on bladder cancer cells, gene therapy and prostate cancer, and has recently obtained an NHMRC Development grant for \$703,000.00. Pamela is a member of a number of organisations including the Australian Society for Immunology, American Association for Cancer Research, Clinical Oncology Society of Australia and a founding member of Genitourinary Cancer Urological Group.

"Believe in yourself, and ensure your data are validated, treat your colleagues with dignity and fairness, understand IP, seek legal advice and obtain backing from your University before entering into industrial contracts, then make it work" Pamela said.

PhD Career Start Award - For PhD students working in IT or life sciences.

Colleen Corrigan, University of Queensland

Colleen is a biologist with over 15 years professional expertise in managing marine conservation projects. Colleen has influenced national and international policy, and supported capacity development and effective environmental decision-making, with insight in the Asia Pacific, African and Latin American regions. Colleen is currently completing her PhD on 'Integrating Measures of Indigenous Land and Sea Management Effectiveness as National and International Scales'.

Gillian Fisher, Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University

Gillian started studying science at the age of 40 and is now a nationally recognised researcher. In 2004 Gillian was awarded a Griffith University Equity Scholarship and enrolled in a Bachelor of Forensic Science degree, she received the Griffith Award for Academic Excellence in 2005, 2007 and 2008. Gillian's research has focused in the field of adult stem cell biology, cell and molecular therapies, parasitology. Gillian applied for and won a highly competitive NHMRC Post Graduate Scholarship followed by several top up scholarships from Griffith University and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute (total funding \$107,000). In 2015 Gillian was selected as a finalist in the postgraduate student category of the prestigious ASMR Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards. Gillian is now focused on malaria research and drug discovery, antimalarials.

Angie Jarrad, University of Queensland

Angie is a passionate researcher with over eight years' experience in biological and chemical sciences. Angie's research is focused on the development of antibiotics to fight gut pathogens. She has skills in drug discovery, organic synthesis and microbiology as well as in project management, communication and writing. Angie is a Young Science Ambassador for the ATSE Wonder of Science program and an IMB Science Ambassador. Her PhD research is focused on developing novel antibiotics to fight anaerobic bacteria. Angie is also an Australian Postgraduate Award recipient.

Marie-Luise Wille, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

Marie-Luise is a researcher with experience in astrophysics, supercomputing and biomedical physics in the area of ultrasound application to soft tissue and bone. Marie-Luise's PhD developed a new method to determine bone density with ultrasound to provide us a more precise, cheaper and safer (non-ionising) way to predict osteoporotic fracture risk. She was nominated for QUT's outstanding thesis award 2015. Marie-Luise is continuing her research in ultrasound, signal, and image processing as a postdoctoral research fellow at QUT. Marie-Luise is Chair of the 2016 Women in Engineering committee.

Sue Wickenden Entrepreneurial Award - *For outstanding women whose vision, leadership and initiative have created their own enterprise.*

Katie Richards, Virtual Legal Pty Ltd

Katie is an entrepreneur, lawyer, educator, author and innovator passionate about systematisation and efficiency. In 2013 Katie established Virtual Legal, driving a high-energy team of lawyers to provide standard legal services through online allowing clients to have legal work done without leaving their home or office. Katie is committed to using technology to create a platform which will allow other lawyers, including stay-at-home mums, to be able to use their skills and maintain their careers yet have a flexible approach to their work-life balance. Katie has gained over 700 new clients in the past 18 months. Virtual Legal is a finalist in the Telstra Business Awards as Start Up of the Year and in the Edu-preneur Awards, and have been nominated for the Telstra Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Karen Sanders, Real Serious Games

Karen is the co-founder of Real Serious Games. The company uses advanced visual technologies to assist industries to plan, communicate and teach complex or high risk concepts, using Real Time 4D Visualisations, Animations and Serious Games. Spatial gamification provides the opportunity to create highly interactive learning environments, where the trainee is able to explore and interact within a spatially accurate environment. Karen has participated in an Austrade trade mission to Innotrans 2015 and partnered with Rail Skills Australasia. Real Serious Games has become a key innovation business to both Austrade and Trade and Investment Queensland.

Karen started out with a small team (a programmer and a creative director) on a self-funded, shoe-string budget, creating low end games to sell into the civil construction market. Six years later, the company has grown to a team of twenty, is recognised as an industry leader and Karen gets one day off a month.