



**Australian
Women in
Computing**



**Newsletter
Spring
2007**



In this Edition: Events, Conferences, News, 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 & www.acs.org.au/acswomen. Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Events & Conferences

Invitation and Call for Presentations for the Melbourne Computing Education Conventicle 2007

The School of Engineering and Information Technology at Deakin University is very pleased to host the fourth annual Melbourne Computing Education Conventicle (MCEC2007) at the Burwood Campus on Friday 16th November. The Conventicle is a one-day conference that aims to support academics, teaching in the IT discipline, or using computer technology in their teaching. It will provide an opportunity for sharing ideas and for the development of collaborations.

The event builds on the success of the first three Melbourne Computing Education Conventicles held at Monash in 2004, Swinburne in 2005 and at RMIT in 2006, and similar IT education conventicles held in Sydney and Queensland over the last few years. The Conventicle is open to all who wish to attend and will bring together teachers and researchers with a common interest in computing education. The format of the Conventicle will consist of presentations, discussion forums and opportunities to chat and network over lunch and morning and afternoon teas. Attendance at MCEC2007 is free.

For more information contact: agoold@deakin.edu.au

VicWIC Dinner

The Victorian Women in Computing (VicWIC) will be holding a networking dinner to follow the Melbourne Computing Education Conventicle (MCEC2007) on Friday 16th November. Venue and time TBA. Please book a space in your diary for this very special event. Details to be announced in next newsletter.

Women in Open Source Conference 2008

The Linux Expo of Southern California is proud to announce their second Women in Open Source Conference. The conference will be held on February 8th, 2008 in conjunction with the 6th Annual So Cal Linux Expo.

Continuing our efforts to encourage women of all ages to be a part of the free and open source community, we invite you to showcase your work on Free and Open Source projects. Join us in sharing your accomplishments, success stories, and advancements.

Past attendees at this event have included women in technology, teachers, and parents of young girls. Widespread acceptance of the Linux Expo and participation by the user community have established SCALE as the premiere Open Source conference in the Southwest. 2008 marks the sixth year that SCALE has been engaging and inspiring the open source community. Our event is uniquely community-based and attracts a wide variety of sponsors, non-profit groups, user groups, and attendees.

The Call For Papers for the Women In Open Source conference can be found here:
<http://socallinuxexpo.org/scale6x/documents/scale6x-wios-cfp.pdf>



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Seeking Sponsorship for a good cause 'girls and IT'

You may be aware of a project we are working on called 'the Girlie IT Book' - the final name is still undecided. The book is well on its way and we have been partly funded which is great however we need some funding to support its production and distribution. If you are interested in sponsoring, please see the attached and read on. If you know of a colleague who might be interested, please also send this on for us.

To give a summary, the book shows the diversity of women working in the information technology industry. It showcases fifteen women working in the industry and their varying careers, while showing their feminine side; one that will appeal to young girls. The book is aimed at girls between 12-16 yrs to show them that IT is a valid career choice for women and that they don't have to be geeky and anti-social to have a career in this industry. Each person in the book is profiled and photographed in a fun way. To complement the profiles, each person also has contributed a fiction story to the book. Each story is based on some experience they have had with technology and it is written in a fun, catchy way to highlight the different ways that technology contributes to society. These stories are to be edited so that they are appropriate for the audience. The idea is to inspire the girls into thinking they can do technology.

For more information contact: jeninebeek@gmail.com

Digital Divas turning on to High-Tech careers

Young people in Melbourne's east will hear the real story about future careers in ICT at Box Hill TAFE today as part of the Brumby Government's ICT: Start Here. Go Anywhere campaign the Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Theo Theophanous said today.

Women continue to be vastly under-represented in the ICT workforce, so we are also looking at new ways to attract more girls to technology careers. "Digital Divas is a new cutting-edge multimedia program, designed specifically for girls aged between 10 and 14, which we have just begun trailing, at local Brentwood Secondary College, Glen Waverley – and it's proving extremely popular.

<http://www.mmv.vic.gov.au/NewsDigitalDivasSwitchingOnToHighTechCareers>

Traditional IT department to disappear in radical five year transition

Sandra Rossi 28/08/2007

The IT department as we know it, will no longer exist after 2012. Not only will there be a radical shift in skill sets but the traditional IT shop is likely to have a different name with IT managers even sporting new titles like innovation manager or director of processes.

In the next five years, the IT department will shrink by one third as a result of increased automation, according to John Roberts, Gartner vice president and distinguished analyst.

But it isn't just about size, Roberts said this transition will see IT's focus shift dramatically from technology to business processes and relationships.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=682485737&eid=-257>

ACS

Pearcey Foundation Victorian 2007 Award for Young Achiever

An audience of nearly 100 ICT luminaries warmly applauded the presentation of the Victorian Pearcey Award 2007 to Ashley Herring, and Pearcey Victoria Commendations to Dr. Stan Skafidas and George Parthimos at a cocktail party in Melbourne on 27 August 2007.

The awards were presented by Hon Tony Robinson, Minister for Consumer Affairs and Gaming, and Randall Straw, Executive Director, Multimedia Victoria, representing the Minister for Information Technology, Hon Theo Theophanous.



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Branch Forum: Improving ICT Governance

Wednesday 19th September 2007

Most organisations could do far better in governing their use of IT, which is now critical to business operations. This is the clear finding of preliminary research conducted from November 2006 to March 2007 by RMIT University and Infonomics explored the views of Company directors and executives regarding the effectiveness of their IT Governance. The data shows that Chief Executives and Directors agree that IT is now critical to business operations. But, they all see considerable scope for improvement ? especially iin the areas of Human Factors and realising the value of investment in IT.

This presentation will outline the main findings of the research, using AS8015 as the framework, and will suggest ways in which the performance of IT Governance can be improved in future, by combining attitude with process.

Mark will also update the status of AS8015's journey towards being adopted as an ISO standard, and will put it in the context of the frameworks familiar to IT specialists ? such ass ITIL and CoBIT.

For bookings:

<https://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=event&temID=eventdetails&area=9003&eveID=10082711356286>

Psychological Principles of Behavioural Interviewing

Your resume gets you the interview but your interview performance wins you the role!

Improve your interview skills with this workshop focusing on the behavioural interviewing techniques used by recruiters and hiring managers in the IT industry when hiring graduates and professionals. This workshop includes:

- General interview skills
- How to understand and respond to Behavioural questions
- Understanding the star principle
- How your answers are rated and weighted by hirers
- Developing your own behavioural interviewing guide

Presenter: Jill Noble

For bookings:

<https://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=event&temID=eventdetails&area=9003&eveID=10082711461554>

ACS Reveals ICT's Carbon Footprint

ACS has delivered Australia's first ICT carbon emissions audit, revealing that ICT use by Australian businesses generated 7.94 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2005, which is the close equivalent to the civil aviation and the metal production industries. The technology industry is in a unique position to demonstrate leadership its footprint, as well as leading the way in identifying and creating innovative green solutions for other industries and Australian consumers.

More details of the findings and recommendations can be located at

<http://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=notice&temID=noticedetails¬ID=774>

For full Policy Statement, please visit www.acs.org.au/acs_policies/docs/2007/greenictpolicy.pdf

For Audit Report, please visit www.acs.org.au/acs_policies/docs/2007/greenictaudit.pdf



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ACM

Turing Award 2006 Lecture on Video

ACM Turing Award winner Fran Allen says software is falling behind hardware capabilities. Watch the video of her Turing Award Lecture, which was delivered at the Federated Computing Research Conference (FCRC) in June. Watch the video at:

<http://www.acm.org/news/featured/turing-2006-lecture-webstream>

Stereotypes Turn Girls Off Math, Science

LiveScience (08/27/07). Read more at:

http://www.livescience.com/health/070827_girls_math.html

Why Don't Tech Savvy Students Study IT?

ITPro (08/23/07) Kobie, Nicole

Today's students are widely considered to be the most technologically competent generation, which makes the fact that fewer and fewer students, particularly girls, are interested in studying computers and technology all the more baffling.

<http://www.itpro.co.uk/news/123218/why-dont-tech-savvy-students-study-it.html>

IT Still Trying to Find What Women Want

SearchCIO.com (08/22/07) Tucci, Linda; Braue, David

A recent Gartner report suggest that women have superior communication and listening skills and are "innately better suited than men" to thrive in the new global economy, so the shrinking population of women in IT could cause trouble in the industry. Women control or influence 80 percent of consumer spending decisions, but 90 percent of IT products and services are designed by men, a formula for "going out of business," according to Gartner.

<http://www.searchcio.com.au/topics/article.asp?DocID=1233089&SiteID=19>

Chairwoman of IGDA Education SIG to Speak at GC Asia Conference

Game News (08/16/07)

The inaugural GC Asia Conference will feature a lecture by Susan Gold on establishing a career in the gaming industry. In a talk entitled "Entering the Video Game Industry," Gold will discuss everything from crafting a resume and portfolio to preparing for interviews, so prospective job seekers can improve their chances of securing positions.

<http://home.nestor.minsk.by/game/news/2007/08/1603.html>

12 IT Skills That Employers Can't Say No To

Computerworld (07/11/07) Brandel, Mary

A group of experts including Google engineering manager and founding member of ACM's professions and education boards Kevin Scott identify a dozen technology skills that are in high demand among companies.

These skills include knowledge of machine learning applications, which Scott says is increasing the need for data mining, data structure, and statistical modeling skills; application mobilization, which is growing in



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importance as mobile devices gain value as business tools; wireless networking, which raises issues of security and integration, says CompTIA's Neill Hopkins; human-computer interaction or user interface design; "true" project management driven by bias against overbudget or failed projects; and basic networking.

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9026623&intsrc=html_ts_head

Tech's Green Problems

USA Today (07/17/07) P. 1B; Kessler, Michelle

Nearly every major PC and electronics manufacturer is rolling out "green" programs that aim to recycle used machines and design more environmentally friendly, power-efficient products. The annual U.S. electricity costs of leaving PCs on unattended is \$1.7 billion, while just 11 percent of electronics is currently recycled and 44 percent is discarded. The green initiatives are being driven by customer demand, among other things, according to Motorola's Scott Martin.

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/products/environment/2007-07-16-green-tech_N.htm?csp=34

What's a Girl to Do?

Government Technology (07/17/07) Massey, Liza Lowery

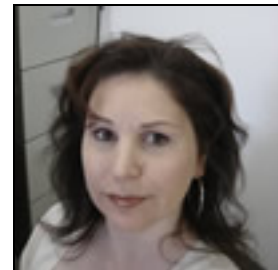
In some fields the gender gap has been shrinking, but four out of five top-paying "male-dominated" jobs are IT related, and women account for only 9 percent to 24 percent of the work force in those professions, according to CareerBuilder.com's Rachel Zupek. Zupek did note that IT project managers, considered to be a top-paying job, are not dominated by either gender, and the pay gap between men and women continues to shrink.

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/127019?topic=117688>



Catherine

To send a message or submission to the Newsletter editors for the next edition email
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Thank- you!



Linda