

# Unmasking technical talent



Sheree Smallman.



Janine Garrett.

here was no hiding the talent behind masks at the 11th annual Women in Technology Awards last month.

While the awards took the novel form of a masquerade ball at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the cream of Queensland's ICT and biotechnology industries were there to unmask in style the nine award winners.

The Women in Technology awards focus on recognising the achievements of Queensland women work-

ing in the IT and biotech industries, including students, researchers and in executive roles. In its lifetime, 79 awards have been made with the winners sharing in over \$550,000 in cash and prizes, achieving recognition for excellence in their fields.

"In the current environment, with our technology industries facing a critical skills shortage, it is important that we optimise the participation of women in these sectors at all levels," said WiT president, Anne-Marie Birkill.

"The WiT awards recognise and reward industry leaders for their achievements, but importantly they also identify wonderful role models for men and women working or aspiring to work in technology."

## WiT Awards 2008:

- Griffith PhD Career Start Award:** Melinda Kambouris, working for Mater Mater Medical Research institute (MMRI).
  - New Horizons ICT Professional Award:** Sheree Smallman, Department of Justice and Attorney General.
  - Office for Women ICT Career Development Award:** Tracy Whitelaw, MyCyberTwin.
  - Optus ICT Outstanding Achievement Award:** Janine Garrett, Charm Health.
  - QCTN Rising Star Award:** Jane Fitzpatrick, Cleveland Biosensors.
  - UQ Biotech Research Award:** Neena Mitter, Emerging Technologies.
  - Honourable mention:** Tracey Mynott.
  - Queensland Govt Executive Award:** Judy Halliday, UniQuest.
  - Unisys ICT Student Award:** Sarah McDowell, UQ.
  - Biotech Outstanding Achievement Award:** Maree Smith, UQ.
- [www.wit.org.au](http://www.wit.org.au) ■

# Celebrating business excellence



The cheer goes up among the September winners of the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards.

## By Aldwyn Altoney

Several previous winners joined new entrants to take out categories in the prestigious Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards (GCBEA) for September.

The winners, which are now in the running for the supreme award, are Wealthfarm (Emerging Business), Carestaff Nursing Services (Family Business), Austmarine (Manufacturing

and Construction), Simptel Communications (Mayor's Innovation GC), Slush Puppie (Retail Wholesale and Distribution), Magic Millions (Tourism Hospitality and Recreation), KPS Maritime (Trades Professions and Services), CaraData (Information Technology and Multimedia) and Envirosax (Environmental Management).

The winners were announced at the atmospheric Quid Bar in Conrad

Jupiters, Broadbeach, on September 24. GCBEA vice-president Richard Holt praised the calibre and diversity of the September winners. Awards event co-ordinator Lisa Maddison said the October entries had also exceeded all previous years.

Mr Holt encouraged the support of the new Mayor's corporate social responsibility award.

"We will be looking at the everyday practices of businesses in assisting not-for-profit local community organisations, particularly their mentoring assistance and provision of staff time," Mr Holt said.

The first winner of this award will be announced at the GCBEA gala event at Conrad Jupiters on November 22, 2008. The winning business will receive \$5000 to be passed on to their community partner.

Entries for this year's awards have now closed and early entries are encouraged next year. The first entries will be accepted on May 1, 2009.

[www.goldcoastbusinessawards.com.au](http://www.goldcoastbusinessawards.com.au) ■