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UPcoming events in 2008



After another successful start to the UP year of events with [What's UP 2008](#), and the [Web 2.1](#) evening (images [here](#)), we are gearing up to bring you another exciting year packed full of fun and interesting events. It will be well worth keeping an eye out for news about What's up at UP in 2008!

Early highlights include an exclusive Unlimited Potential [IT Rockstar](#) after-party, the return of perennial favourite [Gadgets, Games and Geeks](#), as well as events focusing on Silicon Welly and Open Source technology.

Details will be rolling out over the coming months, so stay tuned!

Unlimited Potential Prize Inaugural Winner

Congratulations to **Andrew Walbran** from Victoria University who is the first winner of the **Unlimited Potential Prize in Computer Science**. We're awarding the prize each year and will change the major each time to make sure all the ICT disciplines are recognised. Andrew wins \$1000 and of course the valuable kudos of being the Unlimited Potential prize winner!

Can't attend UP events?

Those of you who attended UP's February event [Web 2.1 with Amazon and Catalyst IT](#) may have noticed a video camera documenting the event and wondered what was going on? The answer to this question is that UP events will soon be accessible via downloadable video from our [website](#). So if you find yourself unable to come to certain UP events for some reason and keep hearing great reports about exciting talks by people such as Mike Culver, you will have the opportunity to find out what people are raving about! Stay tuned...

UP Recommends:

Know an IT Rockstar?

Ever wondered what an IT Rockstar is, or thought you really ought to be one? Well [920](#) are searching for NZ's next IT Rockstar and it could be you! Become New Zealand's IT Rockstar and you'll win tickets to an international IT conference of your choice – to the value of \$10,000!

Just nominate yourself (or someone you know) at <http://www.itrockstar.co.nz/> – then it's up to your fans and the judges to give you your big break. For employers, it's a great to show an employee how much you value their skills and it will give your company some serious cred. **To enter just tell 920 why you're (or someone you know is) IT Rockstar material in less than 500 words.** [Audition now!](#)



Google Summer of Code



Google has officially announced that Summer of Code, the world's biggest open source software

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challenge for University students, is back for its fourth year.

Last year 900 students participated, contributing new features to a hundred software packages including the Firefox browser, Apache webserver, the Python programming language, the One Laptop per child, and New Zealand's SilverStripe web platform.

As with last year, each student receives (NZD) \$5500 for successfully completing coding work over June and July, gaining experience with deep programming challenges and the pleasure of working with the core developers of some of the world's most popular software.

New Zealand University students who wish to be involved must apply at <http://code.google.com/soc> between **Monday 24th March and Monday 31st March**, selecting their preferred project and proposing a technical challenge to work on.

Angel HQ

Wellington finally has its own Angel investment club, so all you ambitious high growth companies out there looking for funding and connections, get in touch with [Angel HQ](#). It's a private club, not a fund, and angels meet regularly to review company pitches. There are already a lot of members and a nice amount of experienced tech entrepreneurs and company owners in the mix which means they'll get our industry and hopefully we'll see some good deals done. The first investment evening is on **Thursday 27th March** and they'll be run regularly after that. Contact marie-claire@growwellington.co.nz if you want to find out more, or fill out the Angel HQ drop sheet on the website and good luck!

Calling International Exporters



Ever wanted to know more about the nuts and bolts of the International Export trade? Then this could be the place for you! New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) is presenting a course on **Tuesday 1st April** as part of the Exporter Education Programme – **ICT Sector: Develop your International Sales Pitch and Market Entry Strategy**. Former New Zealand Trade Commissioner Jacinta Clark, will present the course in two parts: *Market Entry Strategies*, and *Developing Your Winning Sales Pitch*.

To secure your place in this workshop or for more information visit www.exported.co.nz

Inaugural Girl Geek Dinner held in the capital

On 12th March 2008 Wellington's first 'Girl Geek Dinner' was held at the Long Xiang restaurant on Dixon St in Wellington. Organised by Brenda Wallace over 50 girl geeks attended to listen to guest speakers, socialise and network with each other over dinner.

Unlimited Potential would like to congratulate Brenda for pioneering the event in Wellington, which is based on a similar event concept becoming popular globally. "Girl Geek Dinners Wellington, is dedicated to making technology accessible and fun for all" says Brenda. "It's amazing the energy that comes out of these dinners".

Sponsored by Google, Catalyst, Abbey Systems and Summer of Code NZ an event will be held every quarter with the next dinner planned for August. The tickets for the March event were sold out in 3 days so get in quick! (Guys, you can go along too if invited by an attending female). Visit

<http://wellington.girlgeekdinners.co.nz/> to find out more.

**Kind wishes,
UP Executive**

A big thanks to all our sponsors, without whom we wouldn't be able to run any of these events:

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