



What's UP?

Official news from Unlimited Potential



SUMMER 2009

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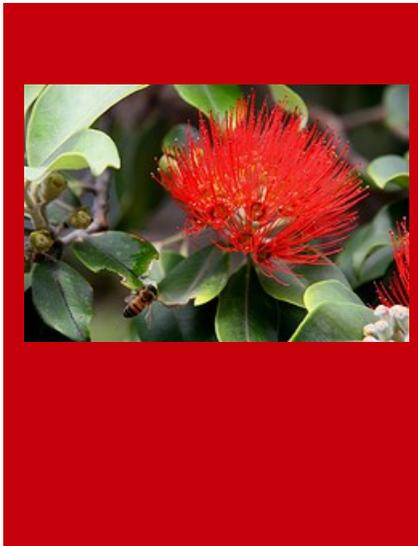


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UP COMMITTEE NEWS

NEW COMMITTEE LINEUP

Unlimited Potential held its Annual General Meeting for 2009 on Wednesday 28 October at [YouDo](#) headquarters. As per usual, we welcomed some new committee members and farewelled others. The formally elected UP Exec line-up for 2009-10 is:

- **ANAMIKA VASIL:** Anamika is a freelance writer and communications adviser specialising in promoting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship.
- **CHLOE DALLAWAY:** Chloe joins us from Grow Wellington where she is an Activate Advisor.
- **JACOB ROSEVEAR:** our resident legal eagle, Jacob is a lawyer at [Wigley Law](#).
- **JO BOOTH:** one of our resident Mac geeks, Jo is facilitator for the Wellington Macintosh Society New Media Group and works for [Intergraph SG&I](#).
- **MARTIN EHRENSTEIN:** co-treasurer, Martin's background is in Enterprise Architecture as well as IT strategy, architecture and security. He's also interested in the share market.
- **PAUL SPENCE:** Paul is director of management consultancy GeniusNet Ltd and runs the popular [GeniusNet](#) blog, and is also CEO of [ideegeo Group limited](#).
- **STEPHEN NICHOLAS:** our 'numbers man', Stephen is CEO of chartered accountant firm [OpenSide](#).

- **SARAH WELSH (nee LOCK):** part of UP's communications team, Sarah works in human resources at [HP](#).
- **TABITHA RODER:** Tabitha is People Capability Advisor at Meridian Energy, and in her spare time works on the [One Laptop Per Child Programme](#) and is education miniconf organiser for [LCA2010](#). You can also find her [blogging](#), [denting](#) and [twittering](#).
- **TOM REIDY:** Director of Market Development for [www.Catalyst90.com](#).
- **REBECCA RAY:** A keen UP member, and recent graduate, Bex is our new ex-pat officer. She blogs at <http://honorary-kiwi.blogspot.com/> and tweets at <http://twitter.com/honorarykiwi>
- **RUMI SHIVAZ:** Rumi is an Innovation Agent for Public Sector & Non Profit Organisations [www.rumishivaz.com](#)

A big farewell to retiring committee members **RUTH MCDAVITT** and **TOM LEGRICE** – thanks for your wonderful contributions to the committee. **JAYNE WALLIS** and **ALEX DEAN** will retire but are staying on as casual members. Our trusty Secretary, **BRONWYN HOLLOWAY-SMITH** will continue the role in 2010.

Thanks to [Epic Beer's](#) Luke Nicholas for his enlightening, interesting, and delicious presentation of Epic's award winning beers, and [YouDo](#) for their fabulous hosting.

UPCOMING EVENTS: SUMMER 09-10

WELLINGTON'S SUMMER OF CODE 09



W2W09 was a great platform for Wellington companies to launch themselves to the world, and this year, the event doubled as the official launch of Summer of Code 09 (SoC09). This is a local initiative, and founder John Clegg did the honours, acknowledging the 40 Wellington students who are spending the summer on internships in innovative Wellington companies. The programme has been running for 4 years, and in that time over 100 undergrads have kick-started their career, spending a summer working in paid internships, in a supportive environment, doing degree-related work.

So what's in it for the companies? They're stepping up to invest in the next generation of IT talent, are able to get some extra hands on deck and, via Grow Wellington, can plug into TechNZ and might find they're eligible for funding to help off-set the cost of the project.

Xero Summer Seminar Series

Xero Summer Seminar Series
 RSVP: <http://up.eventsplatform.co.nz/course-catalogue/2-xero-summer-seminar-series>

During the summer, SoC will host a series of free lunchtime tech talks which are open to the wider ICT community. The series has been sponsored by Xero, who have long been supporters of Wellington's SoC programme. Speakers from companies including Weta Digital (30 Nov) and Snapper (1 Feb) will reveal the latest & greatest technical developments happening in their companies, and a number of panel discussions are lined up for early 2010.

If you find yourself begrudging the sunshine while you're at work this summer, this is the perfect excuse to go for a stroll, be informed, be nourished and be connected during the Xero Summer Seminar Series (a small koha to help with the cost of lunch would be appreciated).

RSVP at: <http://up.eventsplatform.co.nz/course-catalogue/2-xero-summer-seminar-series>

2010 EVENT PREVIEW

2009 has been an exceptional year for UP events (if we do say so ourselves!). With [15 events](#) you've contributed to the consumption of an enormous amount of pizza and beer, not to mention some excellent speakers, discussion sessions and networking. 2010 will be sure to build on the strength of this year's events starting with the return of the ever-popular *Blogger's Predict* - the traditional UP New Year Party in late January. We are also planning the return of perennial favourites *Gadgets, Games & Geeks*, and *Wellington to the World*. Stay tuned for further announcements!

Got an idea for an UP event? Want to be involved? Contact events@up.org.nz and we'll hook you UP.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

XMAS PARTY ON A BOAT

Xmas Party on a Boat
Thursday 17 December 09
From 6.30pm
Tugboat on the Bay, Oriental Lagoon
Cost: \$45 per person (ex. GST)
RSVP: <http://up.eventsplatform.co.nz/courses/4-wellington-xmas-party-on-a-boat>

Are you a Wellington company in search of an Xmas party? Last year a bunch of SiliconWelly & Summer of Code companies got together for a party on a boat. It seemed like such a good idea, they're doing it again! The boat this year will be firmly anchored in Oriental Lagoon, and a buffet xmas dinner, cash bar and excellent networking opportunities will be on hand for all... for the bargain price of \$50pp! Join us for a great end to the year: all is organised, so you don't have to. Find out more & RSVP here: <http://up.eventsplatform.co.nz/courses/4-wellington-xmas-party-on-a-boat>

LINUX 2010 CONFERENCE UPDATE

linux.conf.au (LCA)
18-23 January 2010
Wellington Convention Centre
<http://www.lca2010.org.nz/>

One of the leading free and open source technical conferences of the calendar year, linux.conf.au (LCA), will be hosted in Wellington from 18th January to Saturday 23rd January 2010.

LCA is about free and open source software. It is a technical conference which attracts some of the brightest minds in the world. It is run by the community, for the community.

If you are new to free and open source software, attending LCA is a great way to get a head start. You'll be able to meet and talk with like-minded people and learn about the projects you can contribute to. For seasoned attendees, linux.conf.au is an opportunity to catch up with old friends, see what new friends are currently working on and see first-hand what the future of free and open source software will be.



Registrations are open now! So go to <http://www.lca2010.org.nz/register> before they close on 24 December.

"Buying your geek or employee an LCA 2010 ticket would be a great present idea for Christmas!", said Susanne Ruthven, conference co-director. *"Start the new year listening to some of the best free and open source speakers from around the world!"*.

LCA Open Day

Interested in Linux and Open Source Software? Come to the Open Day: Saturday 23 January, doors open at 11.00 am and close at 2.00 pm. This event is free and open to the public to attend.

The Open Day will abate your curiosity in many technical areas, with its stalls showcasing technical products and services. The Open Day will provide stall-holders and attendees with an opportunity to rub-shoulders with some of the world's most prestigious technical gurus.

"Having a stall at the LCA2010 Open Day is free to stall-holders and a great opportunity to show-case your company", says Jayne Foster, Open Day co-ordinator. *"The event is open to the public and often their first exposure to free and open source software!"*.

If you are interested in having a stall at LCA2010 Open Day, please contact Jayne at openday@lca2010.org.nz.

InternetNZ is confirmed as leading sponsor for the event, and Emperor Penguin sponsor for LCA 2010. *"Every New Zealander that uses the Internet is an open source user."* explained Keith Davidson, InternetNZ Executive Director. *"It's the backbone of almost everything business and government does these days. If you want to get close to the people that have built the core technology of the 21st century, you go to conferences like LCA 2010. I'm thrilled it is being held right on our doorstep."*

Sponsorship packages are still available for LCA 2010. To find out more about sponsorship packages, contact sponsorship@lca2010.org.nz

EVENT REVIEWS

SOFTWARE FREEDOM DAY '09

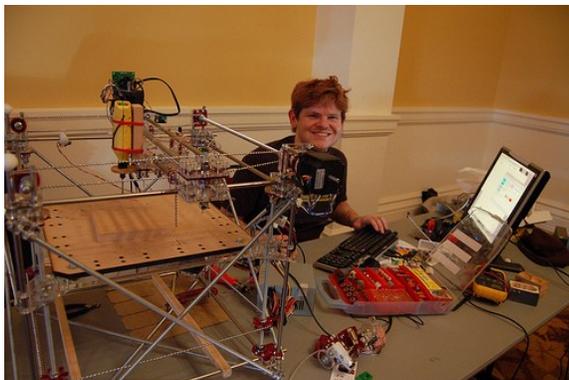


Photo: Brenda Wallace

Software Freedom Day is an annual, global celebration of the use and development of free and open source software, open standards and open participation.

This year, individuals, groups and companies around Wellington came together to organise another great event on Sunday 20th September at the Wellington Town Hall and Michael Fowler Convention Centre. CWA New Media kindly donated their time and energy to revise the website from last year and were our main sponsor for the [event](#).

Over 320 registered to take part in the hackfest, installfest, a makerfest, barcamp and techtalks. Like last year, due to the generous donations of our sponsors, the event was free to attend, with coffee and wifi courtesy of cafeNET.

After seeing so many kids enjoy the event in 2008, we endeavoured to provide a family focus and encouraged parents to come along with their kids to learn more about free software and cool programmes like audacity, scratch and blender. All of these programmes are free to download and provide a great learning experience for children.

Attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities – from taking their first steps in programming

and trying OLPC laptops, to hearing about what it's like to work in the industry and learning about how open source solutions can help enhance your job prospects.

A number of [prizes](#) were donated and given away on the day. Kudos and a massive thanks to NZOSS, Scoop, LCA2010, Ascent and Chris Daish who generously donated the prizes for Software Freedom Day.

One of the highlights of the day was the time spent at Capital E - the kids were really engaged learning new skills, and loved playing in the awesome media suite. Nat Torkington, host of Software Freedom Day, also conducted a tutorial on Scratch and his summary of his experience with the kids was part of a Radio New Zealand interview the week following.

You can hear his interview [here](#).



Photo: Brenda Wallace

Unlimited Potential are excited to be involved with this awesome annual community event. See you next year!

Many kind thanks are due to our existing sponsors of the event - NZOSS, Unlimited Potential, WellyLUG, SuperHappyDevHouse, OLPC, Amberdms, Ascent, CafeNET, CapitalE, Catalyst IT, CWA New Media, DigitalNZ, Egressive, iWantMyName, Morphoss, Mozilla, Novell, Openside, Ponoko, SilverStripe, Sun Microsystems and 3months.

WELLINGTON TO THE WORLD '09

If I had only one word to sum up this year's Wellington to the World (W2W) it would be 'INSPIRING'.

Luckily I have got a few more words here but they are not enough to mention all the speakers, many sharing their tips on this year's theme, *Going Global with Your Technology Business*, and the entrepreneurs who pitched their innovations. You can watch them on UP's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/UPW2W>



Photo: Bronwyn Holloway-Smith

Who wouldn't be inspired by keynote speaker, Richard MacManus, Founder and Editor of ReadWriteWeb? Richard began writing the blog in 2003 as a hobby at home in the evenings while working as a web manager for Contact Energy. That blog is now listed as the world's fifth most popular tech blog by Technorati, gets three million page views a month and is syndicated to the New York Times.

He still works from his Lower Hutt home, but his blog now covers what's happening in web technology and the latest industry innovations and trends coming out from Silicon Valley and the rest of the world. So it was fitting that he talked about how web technology and a virtual work environment has enabled him to go global with his blog.

Without any physical office anywhere he manages about 20 staff, including a team of writers, who "work all over the world, 24/7 and in multiple time zones" from their homes or 'on the road'. The "lightweight, inexpensive" tools he uses to run his international publishing empire include Skype for virtual meetings and to talk to employees, Basecamp project management software and GotoMeeting for online meetings.

Richard says using this “totally virtual model and structure” requires a “culture change and shift in mindset”, but “is the only way we can cost-effectively take Wellington and the rest of New Zealand to the world”. Watch Richard’s full presentation on <http://tr.im/FBgg>

This year’s W2W was booked out and held as an official Global Entrepreneurship Week event. The link-up proved synergistic as W2W once again showcased an array of bright ideas and entrepreneurial talents.

“W2W is the only event of its kind in New Zealand that focuses on building social capital for our emerging tech companies by attracting innovators, entrepreneurs and investors under one roof for half a day,” W2W Event Manager and UP Co-Chair Paul Spence says.

He hopes that in future the event will be opened up to tech companies from all around New Zealand.

UP would like to acknowledge the wonderful W2W event sponsors, including Wellington City Council, UK Trade and Investment, Grow Wellington, VicLink, Summer of Code, CafeNet and iWantMyName.



Anamika Vasil is a freelance writer and communications adviser specialising in promoting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

SUBLEASE SPACE AVAILABLE AT OPENSIDE

A prime space is available immediately in a central city office building, to share with UP sponsors Openside.

The space has up to 50m² of open plan office space, plus access to reception area, meeting rooms, kitchen, shower, toilets and other common facilities on the floor. The total floor area is 340 sq metres and the rest of the space is leased by Openside. Other features include excellent natural light, all open plan other than meeting rooms, high quality existing fit out, tight security, high speed lifts, number of public car parks bordering the building. The space is available immediately.

For more information contact Stephen Nicholas at Openside: stephen@openside.co.nz

***The UP Executive wishes you a very Merry Christmas,
and a safe and happy New Year - see you in 2010!***

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

MAIN SPONSORS



NineTwenty Career Agents, Gen-i, Grow Wellington

MAJOR ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



Openside, Wigley & Company

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



Calcium, ClearWiki, Hell Pizza, IN-Business, SilverStripe, Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, Xero