

THE PAM GILBERT AWARD FOR GENDER EQUITY 2008 WAS PRESENTED TO COLLEEN HUNT AT THE BRISBANE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER.



COLLEEN HUNT 2008 PAM GILBERT AWARD FOR GENDER EQUITY



COLLEEN HUNT was nominated for the *Pam Gilbert Award* for her outstanding work with, and for, girls, encouraging them to participate in Information and Communication Technologies and particularly for the work that she has led and undertaken on behalf of AWE.

Colleen first came to AWE's attention in 2002 as a speaker at a seminar about Girls and ICTs. She spoke about her after-school girls' computer club at Nyanda State High School, which she started after noticing the lack of girls' participation in ICTs at the school. Colleen brought along a couple of girls successful in the club to the AWE seminar. They outlined their studies in Year 11 that would prepare them for an ICT career. At that stage Colleen had been named as the *QSITE Teacher of the Year* and had just been to Chicago to receive the *International Society for Technology in Education Award for Outstanding Technology—Using Educator of the Year*.

Subsequently, AWE published a themed edition of *Redress*, on Women and Girls and Information Technology to which Colleen contributed, telling of her research on girls' participation in ICTs and the measures that she established at Nyanda SHS to

redress the problem of girls' under-participation in ICTs, and reporting the exciting work that resulted.

Colleen was seconded by Education Queensland to work on girls and ICTs, and has been responsible for the production of many policy documents and Action Plans for Girls and ICTs. Colleen also co-ordinated a Girls and ICT Brisbane Group which consists of a range of stakeholders such as systems, universities, professional associations (including AWE), Brisbane City Council, unions and the ICT industry. This group very successfully runs an annual careers evening for girls informing them about the careers in ICTs and encouraging them to study the appropriate subjects in Years 11 and 12.

In 2003, Colleen approached AWE to support an application for a grant from the Queensland Government Information Industries Bureau for a state-wide project to build sustainable networks to increase the participation of girls in ICTs. This application was successful and Colleen co-ordinated eight groups similar to the Brisbane one, assisting them to run careers role-model events. As part of this project Colleen put together a comprehensive electronic kit to assist the groups. **This**

kit is available on the AWE website.

In 2005 Colleen compiled an edition of *Redress* entitled *Sisters Doing IT for Themselves*, including academic articles and examples of effective practice in schools to involve girls in ICTs.

In 2006 Colleen developed a submission to the Australian Office for Women which replicated the Queensland project in all states and territories. When the key AWE person in the Northern Territory group had to have emergency heart surgery, Colleen stepped in and developed an online event which enabled girls in remote communities to participate in this project.

Another major contribution Colleen has made to AWE is the development of the AWE website and generously responding to pleas for help with it. Colleen also drafted a *Girls and ICTs Policy* for AWE, workshopped it at the Melbourne AWE National Biennial Conference and finalised it for inclusion on the AWE website. Maximising the participation of girls in ICTs has been a priority for AWE for some years now. It is largely due to Colleen Hunt that this work has been enabled.