29 November 2016

OzAPP Awards top 20 entries announced – winner to pitch in LA at CES

Highlights:
- **Top 20 finalists for 2016 OzAPP Awards chosen, with top five to present to panel of judges in a public forum at Perth Town Hall on the 8th December,**
- **Winning team be invited to pitch to the judges of Extreme Tech Challenge (XTC) at CES in Las Vegas in January 2017,**
- **Previous winners have included swift (2015) now operating on 15 countries globally, Kindy, (2014) & Ollo Mobile (2013),**
- **One of the standout previous nominees is WA success story is the Melanie Perkins and Cliff Obrecht Co-Founders of CANVA and Fusion Books,**
- **Powered by Curtin University, The OzAPP Awards aims to foster dialogue and collaboration between innovators, researchers, investors and industry, and to further stimulate innovative business culture in WA and throughout Australasia, and**
- **OzAPP Awards is part of The West Tech Fest a week long annual event for the West Australian startup and tech community – attracting tech leaders and investors from the US, Europe, Asia and from around Australia.**

The continued growth of the Australian technology sector has been further emphasised by the breadth and quality of the entries to this year's OzAPP Awards, with organisers receiving over 120 high quality entries.

Following a detailed evaluation process, overseen by the OzAPP Award committee, the top 20 entries have been chosen. Coming from a range of different sectors, including Agriculture, Technology, Education, Food and Beverage, Healthcare, Consulting and Gaming, they showcase the best technology companies from Australasia.

Entries are judged against the following criteria by a panel of independent judges:
- The product value proposition
- Team ability to execute
- Market need for the product
- Description or demonstration of a compelling user interface
- Path or potential path to revenue/monetisation
- Supporting screen shots and graphics of application

Full details of the nominees can be found in the Appendix.

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The judging panel will assess the 20 shortlisted applications and top 5 finalists will be selected to present their application to a panel of judges in a public forum as part of the OzAPP Awards Judging - hosted by the City of Perth the OzAPP Awards pitching and West Tech Fest event will take place in the Perth Town Hall on the 8th December.

The winning team will receive an invitation to pitch to the judges of Extreme Tech Challenge (XTC) at CES in Las Vegas in January 2017. Also on offer is the Lateral prize valued at $20,000, and prizes from Amazon Web Services and Student Edge, both valued at $10,000 each.

Powered by Curtin University, The OzAPP Awards aims to foster dialogue and collaboration between innovators, researchers, investors and industry, and to further stimulate innovative business culture in WA and throughout Australasia.

The West Tech Fest & OzAPP Awards have stimulated the formation of many businesses & facilitated countless contacts between early stage businesses with experienced entrepreneurs & investors. Significant relationships have formed as a result of interaction through the West Tech Fest/OzAPP Awards and have undoubtedly led to investment & business building in the APAC region.

Winners have included swift (2015) now operating on 15 countries globally, Kindy, (2014) & Ollo Mobile (2013)

One of the standout previous nominees is WA success story is the Melanie Perkins and Cliff Obrecht Co-Founders of CANVA, who were finalists in the 2013 OzAPP Awards – Cliff Obrecht, Co-Founder and COO of CANVA, one of Australia's fastest growing tech start-ups returns to this year's OzAPP Awards & West Tech Fest on the 8th December to join Bill Tai, Leading Venture Capitalist and Co-Founder of the OzAPP, MaiTai Global & Extreme Tech Challenge on stage to discuss their journey to over 10 million users in 179 countries – not to be missed!

The OzAPP Awards event is a part of **The West Tech Fest** week, which combines content on entrepreneurship, investment and technology with networking opportunities for all involved. The festival has become a key, annual event for the West Australian startup and tech community – attracting tech leaders and investors from the US, Europe, Asia and from around Australia.

Key events during West Tech Fest include:
- **Mobile Monda**y on 5 December 2016 will showcase the latest developments in mobile applications, share industry thought leadership and also connect mobile Industry professionals and their businesses around the world.
- **Unearthed Demo Day** on Wednesday 7 December 2016 will be a celebration of innovation, showcasing some of the best new emerging start-ups set to impact the resources sector with discussions on corporate venture capital and the future of mining.
- **The Innovation Bay Angel Dinner** on the evening of 7 December 2016 will offer the chance for entrepreneurs in high-tech space industries to pitch their ideas, look for funding and gain valuable advice from Angel Investors.
- The **Groundswell Geraldton Event** on 9 December 2016 will see Mid-West innovators and enterprises, requiring support to reach their potential, connect with the State, national and international investment and innovation communities.

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Featuring inspiring keynote speakers, interactive workshops, networking events, mentoring sessions, educational workshops and community events, the West Tech Fest will host global speakers and entrepreneurs Including:

- Venture Capitalist and Angel Investor Bill Tai: an early investor into Twitter and a host of Australian start-ups such as CANVA, Shoes of Prey and Safety Culture. Bill also co-founded Mai Tai Global - a group of extraordinary entrepreneurs, innovators and athletes that combine their energy, network and resources to help each other achieve professional success, pushing the limits of work and play while also fueling philanthropic activities around the world.
- Cliff Obrecht: co-founder of CANVA - a hugely successful online graphic design platform, created by two UWA students in 2012 offering access to a wide assortment of design tools and options, with a company on track to be Australia's next unicorn.
- Andre Eikmeier: co-founder and co-CEO of Vinomofo - one of Australia's fastest-growing companies embracing digital content, who recently raised $25 million in funding.
- Dr. Michelle Deaker: Founder, Managing Director and CEO of OneVentures - a leading Australian venture capital firm with $170 million in funds under management. Also the founder of E-Com Industries a leading prepaid card and electronic voucher provider in Australia, managing $700 million in Australian retail liability.
- Pred Dragila: Director and co-founder of Fat Zebra - the fastest growing Australian based online payment service company revolutionising the way banks and merchants connect and transact online.
- Simon Cant: innovation specialist at CANTT Associates and ?WhatIf! Innovation. With a focus on disruptive innovation, Simon advises clients such Tennis Australia, UBS, NAB, Suncorp, AMP, Fairfax, News Limited and APN News & Media.
- Ian Gardiner: founder of Innovation Bay - a WA based networking and angel investment group for technology start-ups.
- Ben Sand: co-founder of Meta and entrepreneur at Mura-D. Ben helped build a holographic computer, raised $23 million for Series A and built the foundation for the $50 million Series B.

"There is a growing awareness in Silicon Valley that the Asia Pacific region is a great source of innovation in the digital space and the Awards are providing a focal point for people to come and take a look for themselves," said Bill Tai.

To purchase your ticket for the West Tech Fest and view the list of international speakers please visit: http://ozapp.com.au/west-tech-fest-book-now/

Ends

For Further Information, please contact

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Appendix

Name	Location	Company Details
Bibliotech	Perth, Australia	Spotify for Textbooks, providing university students with all the textbooks they need, at any time, on any device, for a monthly fee. Returns definitions, diagrams, and examples with the aim to help students learn faster than ever before.
Businest	Melbourne, Australia	Our simple, easy to use, business solution will help you monitor client performance, save time & create opportunities to deliver more strategic & advisory services. Businest is specifically designed for use by SMEs and will be positioned and marketed to them.
Cogniant	Singapore	Bringing better health outcomes using behaviour analytics. With two components to the solution: 1. Sally - a patient empowerment app and 2. A patient dashboard for providers and payer Patient empowerment app Sally™ is the virtual mental health coach to support patient.
Cribber	Perth, Australia	A worksite communication platform which allows safety managers to push out critical bulletins to their workforce and receive digital signature back, which are stored in the cloud as a record of compliance.
Everythere	Perth, Australia	Everythere connects physical spaces, objects and even people to digital content using GPS or iBeacons. It's mostly used in tourism and can be used as a digital self-guided tour. Tours can be multilingual and include puzzles and interactivity.
Fairpay	Perth, Australia	FairPay is an Employee to Employee communication platform which facilitates confidential communication of salary data and information between employees so that they are able to make informed decisions about job and work choices.
Feedmee App	Perth, Australia	It's like Tinder for food. But for every 5th meal you find using the app, we donate a meal to someone in need. It is a movement to stop hunger in Australia, taking a stand by teaming up with local restaurants and cafes, which care about the community and those in need.
Formalytics	Perth, Australia	Mobile application to enable any soccer player with a smart phone to film their kicks and analyse their kicking performance, with feedback how they can improve their form, without the use of any additional hardware.
Genie	Hong Kong	Enabling individuals to find work with flexible hours whilst providing companies a 360 temporary staff hiring solution. Striving to solve the global employment issue while bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. Building a community of mobile workers, enabling businesses to hire temporary job-seekers on-demand.
Instatruck	Perth, Australia	An on-demand truck-matching service that is eliminating the massive inefficiencies existing in the current transport industry. Instatruck can be used by anyone from teenagers to logistics operation managers while providing an additional income stream for existing owner-drivers.
KeptMe	Hong Kong	Offering patented mobile solution that empowers educators and parents to capture children's growth and development milestones.
LawAdvisor	Melbourne, Australia	Allow you to get answers to your legal problems for free. If you need further advice or require a lawyer to execute complex legal work, you can interview lawyers within the platform to find out more about the pathways forward, along with the costs. Once you connect with a suitable lawyer, you can execute the piece of work through LawAdvisor's case management platform.
Mark	Hong Kong	A Chatbot for appointment scheduling solutions for the services industry. Delivering a more intuitive, guiding and responsive experience for those, which accept appointments, maximizing the presence on social networks and managing business scheduling.
Obzervr	Brisbane, Australia	Helping organisations achieve field service automation and streamline processes that involve mobile workers. Obzervr helps these workers do their jobs faster and more accurately by enabling them to: work offline and online; work with case-based reasoning; connect them to their supply chain
Ovass	Perth, Australia	Building an agricultural analytics solution that allows a farm to optimise & reduce their high operational costs. From water through to electricity, we enable farmers to reduce their operational costs whilst also promoting crop development & making it easy to identify potential pest & disease
Picci Technologies	Perth, Australia	Picci Technologies is solving the problem of accurate, fast, facial recognition at scale. Where facial recognition meets social. Picci allows you to connect with someone by using nothing more than a photo. No surnames, phone numbers, no social media profiles. Take a photo - hit connect.
Reword	Melbourne, Australia	A real-time alert for online bullying. A simple JavaScript tool that integrates with social and messaging platforms, it acts as an educational tool that helps develop young people's moral compass when they first become active on social media.
SafetyCulture	Townsville, Island	SafetyCulture iAuditor's customizable smart checklists empower workers to conduct onsite inspections, identify hazards and share reports in real time. The web-based analytics platform centrally manages and analyses data captured through SafetyCulture iAuditor to uncover insights that save time – and save lives.
Shippit	Sydney, Australia	The webs simplest shipping platform, a turnkey solution for retailers that connects them into multiple carriers, saving them time, money and ultimately keeping their customers happy. The major problem being solved by Shippit is poor delivery experiences
Storekat	Perth, Australia	Storekat is an aggregation, point of sale and inventory management suite for the Self-Storage Industry. Customers can compare options, book and pay for their storage needs, like booking a hotel online. We are storage customer focused.