# Media Release

linux.conf.au April 2015

## Embargoed until <<DATE TO BE DETERMINED>>

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Audience: for public release

# International Linux conference set to transform Geelong in February 2016

One of the most respected technical conferences in Australia, Linux Conference Australia (linux.conf.au) will make Geelong home between 1st-5th February 2016. The conference is expected to attract over 500 national and international professional and hobbyist developers, technicians and innovative hardware specialists, and will feature nearly 100 Speakers and presentations over five days. Deakin University’s stunning Waterfront Campus will host the conference, leveraging state of the art networking and audio visual facilities.

The conference delivers Delegates a range of presentations and tutorials on topics such as open source hardware, open source operating systems and open source software, storage, containers and related issues such as patents, copyright and technical community development.

Conference Director, David Bell - himself a graduate of Geelong’s Deakin University, was thrilled to confirm the conference dates.

“We’re thrilled to bring such an innovative conference to Geelong. This year, we’re focussing on what makes life better with Linux and open source technologies. We’ll be sourcing presentations that focus on innovative developments in wearable, nearable and biotechnology, alongside our traditional offerings which focus on server, software and storage technology.”

Bell was quick to draw the link between the talent attending the conference and Geelong’s own transformation.

“Geelong is transitioning from an industrial powerhouse to a knowledge economy, fuelled by innovation, science, and technology. Major technical events such as linux.conf.au help to reposition Geelong as a prime location for high tech business.”

Manager of Geelong’s information and communications technology lobby group ICT Geelong, Aamir Qutub, was also positive about the event

<<QUOTE FROM AAMIR TO GO HERE>>

Business Events Geelong played a key role in both attracting the conference to Geelong and ensuring its smooth delivery. Joshua Hesketh, President of Linux Australia, which runs linux.conf.au, was particularly impressed with Geelong’s bid for the conference.

“I was blown away by the level of commitment and support shown by Business Events Geelong, in particular by Terry Hickey. The entire Geelong bid team showed professionalism, competency and drive. Geelong is equally as accessible as Melbourne and has the infrastructure, venues and local support to run the conference. Every vendor, manager and contact on the ground in Geelong were outstanding and engaged to understand our conference and attendees.”

[Linux](http://linux.org.au) is a computer operating system, in the same way that MacOS, Windows, Android and iOS are operating systems. It can be used on desktop computers, servers, and increasingly on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Linux embodies the ‘open source’ paradigm of software development, which holds that source code – the code that is used to give computers and mobile devices functionality – should be ‘open’. That is, the source code should be viewable, modifiable and shareable by the entire community. There are a number of benefits to the open source paradigm, including facilitating innovation, sharing and re-use. The ‘open’ paradigm is increasingly extending to other areas such as open government, open culture, open health and open education.

Software that you might have heard of that is open source includes;

* [WordPress](http://wordpress.org), a blogging tool
* [Drupal](http://drupal.org), a content management system
* [jQuery](http://jquery.com/), a Javascript framework used to build websites
* [Firefox web browser](http://getfirefox.com)
* [Thunderbird](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird/) email client
* [LibreOffice](http://www.libreoffice.org/), a popular alternative to Microsoft Office
* [GIMP](http://gimp.org), a popular alternative to Photoshop
* [Inkscape](http://inkscape.org), a popular alternative to Ilustrator
* [VLC](http://www.videolan.org), a media player, an alternative to Windows Media Player
* [Handbrake](http://handbrake.fr/), a video encoding tool
* [Pidgin](http://pidgin.im), an instant messaging tool

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