

Courier Mail

CM iPad section Business

Watts Next takes HR support national

- by: **Sophie Foster**
- From: **The Courier-Mail**
- November 28, 2011 12:00AM

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WHEN her son was barely three months' old, Sue-Ellen Watts got her business off the ground by juggling breastfeeding and a laptop in her son's childcare centre.

Four years later, the Watts Next managing director has nine staff members and provides specialist HR support to more than 130 small and medium-sized businesses. Watts Next operates like an external human resources department for smaller businesses for whom having an internal solution might prove too costly.

"I believe that SME employees and managers deserve access to the same level of HR support as larger organisations with in-house HR-departments," the 35-year old mother-of-two said.

"Watts Next works with SMEs that are time and resource poor, supporting them to navigate the murky waters of HR and staff management."

It's a comprehensive approach that includes SME employment contracts, policies and procedures, implemented over a 12-month period.

"We also ensure our clients' vision, missions and values flow through their employee lifecycles," Ms Watts (pictured) said. "While SMEs often can't compete on salary, their corporate culture can set them apart from larger organisations. We embrace that by taking our clients' culture and embedding it in their HR."

From a platform where she had no start-up funds and no business contacts, Ms Watts has reached the stage where her efforts have been recognised in the state, when she became a Queensland finalist in two categories of the recent Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards this year.

"Having children, lack of skills or no money shouldn't stop you," she said. "You just need to be clear on what you want and take action."

Based in Upper Mt Gravatt, Ms Watts now plans to open offices across the country in coming years, kicking off with Adelaide.

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Latest

Family's home stolen from block



A FAMILY whose house burnt down just over a year ago have had their replacement dwelling stolen in a bizarre robbery west of Brisbane.

Was this man Australia's first surfer?



A PHOTO of Tommy Walker in 1911 could rewrite the history books, showing Aussies were surfing years earlier than many believed.

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Top Stories

Davis Cup belongs to Spain



MAN U to take on Man City in the FA Cup, a US college football riot & Digby rejects cash for Wallabies.
Video: worst soccer dive.

Kiwis can smell opener's blood



PHILLIP Hughes' batting woes have got so bad that even New Zealand are pleading for the confidence-stripped opener to play in Friday's Hobart Test.

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Food + Drink

Brisbane's best Thai restaurants



6:02PM *Lucy Brook* DISCOVER the best Thai restaurants Brisbane has to offer, and tell us your favourites.

Top spots to buy your Christmas feast



In the generous spirit of the festive season, we have come up with our top 10 providers to help you with your Christmas feast.

Out + About

Retro revival - what's old is new



6:59PM AS THE wheels of fashion turn, and with a bit of ingenuity, what's old can be new again. Kathleen Noonan shows us how.

Southeast's best dog-loving camp sites



2:56PM There are plenty of dog-loving camp sites around so you can have your holiday without abandoning your baby. Here are seven of the best in the region.

What's On

Top films to watch this summer



THIS summer, movie lovers will be spoilt for choice with big-name movies for both kids and grown-ups, while even the lightweight movies are full of big names.

Strongmen show amazing feats of strength



MARVEL at amazing feats of strength while helping a worthy cause at the Gold Coast Strongest Man competition on Sunday, December 4.

VIEW EVENT CALENDAR

Families

Where to meet Santa



3:00PM *Jessica Jane Sammut* IT'S nearly Christmas and that can only mean one thing - magic. Santa Claus has been busy at the North Pole all year and now he's ventured out to visit children across the world. We take a look at where to go to meet Santa this season.

Holiday boredom busters



4:48PM WITH school holidays set to begin, are you dreading the kids climbing the walls looking for things to do? Fear not, here's a list of top attractions and activities to keep them occupied.

Shopping+Fashion

Prepare your house for holiday guests



3:58PM *Paula Shearer* As Christmas nears and relatives threaten to drop by for a day or two, take some time out to freshen up the most important rooms in your home.

What to wear on Christmas Day



10:32AM Christmas is just around the corner. You've got your pressies sorted, but what are you going to wear? *Laura Stead* has it covered.

Business

- **Breaking News**
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Top Stories

Minister in tears as austerity measures agreed



ITALY'S Cabinet has adopted a package of tax hikes, budget cuts and pension reforms in a rush to avoid a bankruptcy that threatens to bring down the eurozone.

Dollar up slightly after weekend slip



THE Australian dollar is slightly higher this morning, despite trading lower throughout the weekend following a mixed reaction to a US jobs report.

AEDT

ASX200 - Top Gainers & Losers *at 04:40PM*

Code	Name	Price	Percent
IAU	Intrepid Mines	1.235	14.88%
CDU	CuDeco	4.14	7.53%
TPI	Transpacific In..	0.825	6.45%
GWA	GWA Group	2.44	5.62%
OMH	OM Holdings Lim..	0.37	-5.13%
CNU	Chorus Limited	2.34	-3.71%
LYC	Lynas Corp	1.27	-3.43%
GNS	Gunns Limited	0.16	-3.04%

More Gainers & Losers