

NCSS DAILY

JANUARY 2011: EDITION 1.3 BROUGHT TO YOU BY  MACQUARIE !

Days 4 & 5: action on and off campus!

The last two days took on a different structure as students had a break from programming and visited some of the sponsors supporting the NCSS every year.

On Wednesday morning (very early!) students visited Altium (covered on page three) and returned to the college for Masterclasses on six different computing topics:

An Introduction to Language Technology
Building Games with Flash
Google App Engine for Fun & Profit
Cellular Automata and the Game of Life
Exploring 3D Medical Imaging
Computational Divination

The rest of the day was designated free time, in which students were allowed to explore Sydney or relax at the college. Many students spent the evening hanging out and playing games like Jungle Speed and Mafia.

Thursday involved visiting sponsors Macquarie Group, Atlassian and Google, which will be written up with photos in following newsletters. It was a busy but definitely exciting day as students got an insight into these organisations and were allowed to ask questions directly.

Finally, the official NCSS dinner took place on Thursday night and was attended by students, tutors and sponsors. Everyone was able to interact over dinner and collaborate together to solve James' posed piano tuner challenge - a great night in the Women's College!



Official NCSS dinner

The formal dinner of NCSS was held Thursday night at Women's College. Pre-dinner drinks were followed by a multi-course meal which included spring rolls, chicken and creme caramel.

Representatives from various sponsor companies attended both the drinks and dinner and were able to interact with students in a more personal and individual way. Students in turn were able to talk to sponsors from different companies and get an important insight into what it's like to be working in the IT industry.

The dinner took place in the dining room with seating strategically coordinated such that all students had the chance to interact with sponsors. We had the chance to speak to CEO Matt Barrie and Greta Stojanovic from

Freelancer about the success of the company, and to Peter Beadle who is involved with a number of diverse technology projects.

James posed a challenge to all: *How many piano tuners are there in Sydney?*

This problem-solving question is designed to make people think about how to estimate and put limits on what they know. We discovered that the answer is (according to NCSS) somewhere between 36 and over 9000, but most likely around 50 or 160 depending on how you calculate.

Overall the dinner was a great success and we saw many intent discussions taking place all around the dining room. Thank you again to the sponsors for attending and for supporting NCSS!



OFFICIAL NCSS DINNER



NCSS students visit Altium HQ

Early on Wednesday morning, students were transported to the headquarters of Altium, located north of Sydney. Once there, they enjoyed a delicious breakfast of bacon and egg rolls and then assembled to hear some brief presentations about Altium's role in the IT industry. Their goal, summed up by a student as "creating software for making hardware", has seen them produce software for companies such as NASA, Boeing, and Fujitsu.

After the talks, students were toured around different parts of the Altium workplace and were able to ask any questions they had of their tour guides. We followed a group led by Raj, who showed everyone his work environment and explained why he enjoyed working for Altium.

Students also had fun playing a brief computer game guiding a chip around a perilous obstacle course in only 20 seconds. The highest scores were close to and over 4000 and the lucky winner with 4013 was Niel, who received a very cool NanoBoard. Overall the students really enjoyed visiting Altium and got a fantastic and useful insight into their company.

VISITING ALTUM



★ Students attempt the Altium challenge - to get the most points in 20 seconds!



Marty from Altium demonstrates some of the software they have developed to the NCSS students



AROUND CAMPUS: STUDENT FREE-TIME



"Just in time!"



Special thanks to Adam and Damon for their great photos!

What's been happening at NCSS?



Yesterday's events in a nutshell and what to expect for today

...

It's been a busy couple of days and a notably different program. The students took a break from learning Python and C in order to visit sponsors and explore the city of Sydney.

Visiting the sponsors was certainly a highlight in the program and students really seemed to enjoy getting an

insider's perspective into companies they may consider working for one day. The Masterclasses also provided a change of topic and pace, with some really interesting topics being covered! The official dinner was enjoyed by all and we all learnt a bit more about piano tuning.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Students return to a more regular program tomorrow, with lectures and tutorials throughout the day. Mentors from sponsor companies visit the students in order to practice job interviews which will be a very useful experience.

The programming competition, a series of problems for students to solve, will take place in the evening and looks to be lots of fun!

Thursday's schedule (06.01)

Morning

Macquarie/Atlassian/Google visits

Afternoon

Project lecture/discussion
Mentor interview research

Evening

Official dinner

Today's schedule (07.01)

Morning

Lectures/tutorials
Mentor interviews

Afternoon

Lunch at Women's College
Lectures/tutorials

Evening

Dinner at Women's College
Programming competition

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Thank you to our awesome sponsors!



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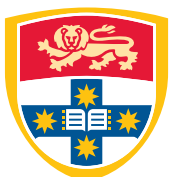
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