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
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.

AROUND CAMPUS: STUDENT FREE-TIME

“Just in time!”

Special thanks to Adam and Damon for their great photos!
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!