

Australasian Computer Science Week 2005 (ACSW05) Conference Report

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The Australasian Computer Science Week (ACSW) is an annual event which is held within the Australasian region. This event occurs with the support of the Computing Research and Education Association, and provides an opportunity for computer science researchers and educators from around the world to come together and share ideas.

The ACSW event for 2005 was held in Newcastle, Australia, from January 30 to February 3, 2005. Newcastle is Australia's sixth largest city, located approximately 160km north of Sydney on the east coast of New South Wales. The host for this year's event was The School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, from the University of Newcastle. The event was held at the Newcastle City Hall, located in the centre of Newcastle's CBD known as 'Civic'.

ACSW05 was comprised of the following six conferences and two workshops.

- Australasian Computer Science Conference (ACSC),
- The Australasian Computing Education Conference (ACE)
- The Australasian Database Conference (ADC)
- Computing: The Australasian Theory Symposium (CATS)
- The Australasian User Interface Conference (AUIC)
- The Asia-Pacific Conference of Conceptual Modelling (APCCM)
- The Australasian Information Security Workshop (AISW)
- Australasian Workshop on Grid Computing and e-Research (AusGrid)

The conference opening started with an address from the University of Newcastle and the Organising Committee Chair. This was followed by presentations of the conferences best papers, a plenary Address by Dr James Gosling from Sun and a keynote address by Prof Jeffrey D. Ullman. The individual conferences then split into five streams with papers being presented in four 1.5 hour blocks each day.

Most of my time during the week was spent at AUIC2005. This was a modest gathering of interesting people from the universities of Canterbury, Wellington, Auckland, South Australia and Sydney together with people from the HITLAB New Zealand and ACID. A total of fifteen papers were presented in the areas of Augmented Reality, Light Weight Design, Programming/Designing Tools, User-Interface Metaphors, Interface Design and Collaborative Authoring. Sam Buccolo from the Australasian CRC for Interaction Design (ACID), gave a keynote presentation describing what ACID does and demonstrated some of ACID recent R&D projects.

I presented a paper called 'Program Comprehension: Investigating the Effects of Naming Style and Documentation', which was published as part of AUIC2005. This presentation was well received with plenty of questions and positive feedback.

ASCW is a great opportunity to checkout researchers from many different areas of computer science. As well as attending presentations for AUIC, I had the opportunity to attend presentations from other conferences including ACSC and ACE.

Instead of attending the conference dinner, I took the opportunity to eat Indian food with a group of PhD and Masters students from Australia, New Zealand and England. We all had a lot of fun, taking the opportunity to have a few beers and discuss matters of least importance.

I enjoyed the week I spent at ACSW05 immensely, the event was superbly organised and the catering was first rate. The paper presentations I attended were all interesting, with plenty of opportunity to meet new people. Newcastle was a great place to stay. Most places are within walking distance and going for a swim at beach at the end of each day, certainly help me appreciate the life-style that Newcastle folk enjoy.

For more information, checkout the following websites:

Australasian Computer Science Week 2005

<http://www.cs.newcastle.edu.au/~acsw05/home.html>

The Sixth Australasian User Interface Conference

<http://www.cosc.canterbury.ac.nz/auic/>

Australasian CRC for Interaction Design

<http://www.interactiondesign.qut.edu.au/>

Visit Newcastle

<http://www.visitnewcastle.com.au/index2.html>