

Compuletics 2001

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Compuletics 2001 is an inter-school challenge where schools enter a team of three in years 5/6 and 7/8, to perform five computer related tasks with 10 minutes to complete each task.

There was a heat for senior primary and one for intermediate schools. The tasks included word, web page design, typing skills and two games based on logic. Emphasis for the children was on fun and to introduce them to the Otago Polytechnic School of Information Technology and Electrotechnology.

The 2nd year Communications class from the Otago Polytechnic Bachelor of Information Technology organised this event as part of their course. The Compuletics event provided a real-time project for the Interpersonal Communication IT201 class and gave the students practical experience in interpersonal communication skills. It was an excellent vehicle to demonstrate group dynamics, conflict, negotiation, business writing and research.

The class organised the event including sponsorship, designing tasks for the event, and designing

databases for the entries and results. The class researched these four areas:

- 1 What is an effective means of promoting the BIT degree through displays at organised events?
- 2 How children in years 5 to 8 perceive careers in the I.T. Industry.
- 3 Why children want to compete in a competitive event.
- 4 To find the levels of proficiency of school age children (years 5-8) with respect to Information Technology: A study to assist in the development of suitable tasks for Compuletics 2001.

It was a success with 28 schools participating and gained the Otago Polytechnic huge exposure on local radio and in the daily newspaper. This event also developed a strong link between the Otago Polytechnic's B.I.T. programme and schools. School students were introduced to the Otago Polytechnic as an interesting and fun place to study computing and we took advantage of the parent support on the day by show-casing our third year projects and current students.

For the record, the event was won by Mosgiel Intermediate and St Joseph's Cathedral Primary.



Figure 1:

Students from Fairfield Primary School

Photo supplied courtesy of The Otago Daily Times, June 2001