Twenty-two SIT’s students participated in the 5-days learning journey trip to Brisbane, Australia. Students were given opportunities to visit two production plants (Coca Cola and XXXX Brewery), an university (University of Queensland), Port of Brisbane and a bank (Commonwealth Bank of Australia). In this blog, the students were asked to reflect and pen down a visit they felt most passionate about during the trip.

RACHAEL LIM JIA YI (BT1303)

On 23 September, we landed down at Brisbane followed by lunch at Brisbane city. Then we move on to University of Queensland for campus visit. We started off by splitting into 2 groups and start touring the campus. The campus building architecture is very different compare to the university we see in Singapore, it is stylish and modern with the brick building.

We visited the Faculty of engineering, architecture and information technology to see how the class was and how is it conducted, also it was where we had some talk presented to us. There were 3 different lecturers from 3 different courses came down to show us some project that the students did for their studies.
First we had interaction design which shows us how the students created a fun and interactive project without using computer and mouse. They actually use a gym ball and a table to make it interactive with a camera on top of the projector to present the globe of the world. With the camera, they used sometime like QR code to display pictures in the table. So as the gym ball is turn, the table will also display the climate of the point it was pointing at. This will allow learning to be more fun for younger kids to learn more about the countries in the world.

Next was about the rotor blades of a quadcopter which show us the different version of the rotor blades they had tried to build. We get to throw the rotor blades of different version to test out the improvements made by the students. I think this is very interesting since quadcopter is very popular now as people are attaching go pro camera on it and flying around to shoot aerial photographs and videos.

Next was a demo of a face recognition which can identify face features and name the person that was register on the system. This face recognition was amazing as it is able to identify the person out of the hundreds of people register in the system. This technology will be useful for security purpose next time.

Overall this was a very fruitful trip, it shows us things that we might not be able to see in Singapore.

TEO JUN TING (BT1303)

It was interesting to know and see how coca cola were made. I like how they are constantly trying to make the production more environmentally friendly like how over the years they reduced the size of the lid so that they use lesser aluminum.

I especially like the different color cans of coca cola.
Though it was a little misleading. I thought they had come up with new flavors of the coke and why did Singapore not have them.

But the lady giving us the tour told us in the end that they were just packaged differently.

Nevertheless, the entire tour around the factory was interesting and made me realize that everything around us that I never thought needed coding, has coding involve. This, to me, is pretty amazing, how technology has developed this advanced.

LEONG WEN QING (BA1303)

I’ve picked University of Queensland to talk about for my report. Even though the time spent at university of Queensland is short, I had fun trying out and equipping myself with the two hours talk about how Information Technology can make our lives easier with the implementation of such projects. One of their projects that I left the most vivid impression on me was the cctv.

With the help of technology, the project shows how Australia immigration actually works with the help of identifying one’s face and personal identity. This not only amazed me but made me think
that actually getting into an IT based school is not that bad after all. Not only can we learn about improving the efficiency of people but to keep the society up to date with this technology.

Another project that sparked me was the 3D globe ball with the digital effect of the world globe, it can actually produce stunning digital animated animals that are found in different locations of the map when moved. From what I have heard, it aims to help young kids learn about the different species found in different parts of the geographical locations.

Besides this, we also visited most of the highlights of Queensland. With the help of our formal Singaporean who is currently studying in Queensland, he walked us around the school and I definitely had fun exploring this university. This was the first time I stepped into an Australia university and the times spent were left imprinted in my footsteps.

GENEVIEVE TAY HUI TING (BA1303)

The Global Change Institute (GCI) of University of Queensland opened in 2013. The building is not only beautiful, but also environmentally friendly too.

The building works with the environment rather than consume its resources. It harvests all of its own energy and water on site. It doesn’t use electrical energy to light up or cool itself. Instead, it uses natural sunlight to light up the building during the day and stores solar energy (using solar panels) to light up the building during the night. It also uses water to cools itself by having water run through the water pipes that were built all around the walls of the building.

Though the weather was particularly hot that day, I was impressed that the building felt slightly cooler than the outside, given that it doesn’t use any air-conditioning at all. It was definitely an eye-opener as I didn’t expect that using water to cool the building could work that well. I was also
impressed at the design of the building; it looked very modern and the atmosphere was very calm and relaxing.

LAW PEI YI, JOLYN (BA1303)

It’s my first time to Australia and I had lots of fun there. I really like Australia as people there are very friendly and the weather is very cooling, unlike Singapore.

Of all the places we’d visited, I have taken notice of this bank. Commonwealth bank is very different from Singapore bank. In Singapore, banks earn a profit on the difference between the interest they earn through the loans disbursed to customers and the interest they pay to their deposit customers. For Example: If a bank earns a 10% interest on loans and gives a 7% interest on deposits, the profit they are earning is 3%. However for commonwealth bank, they partner with not-for-profit organisations to help them run their operation, and their purpose is to serve their members rather than to maximize profits.

Commonwealth bank also allow customers to choose their own monthly merchant plans for businesses which Singapore bank do not have. The simple merchant plan is an easy pricing option that allows your business to pay a monthly amount for your merchant terminal, depending on how often you plan to use it. This will let them to have better cash flow management, as you’ll know what your costs will be each month.

In Commonwealth bank, they provide barista service, which allow customers to enjoy a coffee while waiting. Singapore bank should provide a barista service too.
LIAW LIANG WEI (BA1303)

On the first day of our Brisbane tour we went to the University of Queensland. Over there we had two Singaporean students studying there to bring us on a tour around the campus. The campus was big & had a very relaxed ambience, students could study almost anywhere so long as they had their laptops with them. Many students were seen laying on the grass reading, having lunch together or just chilling out. They also bring us to an environmentally friendly building in the campus where they used solar panels to power the buildings electrical needs.

After the tour we were invited into their tutorial rooms to watch a demo of what they did in their courses. The first demo we had was the facial recognition system, which we had experienced at the airport that day. The next demo was the one where the students made an interactive version of google maps using an exercise ball, we got to try the device out for ourselves and I thought that it was amazing how the students could think of such innovative ideas for their project. The last demo was the robotics demo where they showcased a few remote controlled devices that are mostly used for filming. They showed us how the students improved on the flight efficiency of the devices by modifying the design of the device. Overall I think that the University of Queensland is a nice place to study in.

THAM MARC JASON MACAPAGAL (BA1303)

The one place that I’d love to write about and gave me a very big impression is the port of Brisbane. Knowing Singapore is also known as port city. I now know the scale of what we are in the trading industry. And how big of a part it plays towards the economy and upraise of the country, I mean we started from the bottom as a fishing village and now we are here. A world renowned and respected country, really does make me feel proud of being a Singaporean. We went up to a viewing tower to just enjoy the view and have a close to bird’s eye view of the port. We then had a bus tour around the port and see how the sorting and transporting of many many things from woodchips and coal to be shipped to japan and cars to all over the world. We even saw different ways of managing containers and how it’s moved. It was a real eye opener.
LEE JING YI VALERIE (EI1303)

I’ve enjoyed my study trip at Brisbane thoroughly. What left me a deep impression was how carefree and laid-back the students were at the University of Queensland (UQ). I was surprised that it was their assignment/exam week as they looked so relaxed. Also, I was really envious of the environment because they get to sit on grass patches in the cooling weather. It’s rare to see such sight in Singapore. Even if you get to see people sitting on the grass back here in Singapore, they probably have a blanket over the grass.

The campus is huge and the facilities are great. While walking around the campus, I realised that they provide many Food and Beverages stalls around, which is really convenient for the students. They also have great facilities like the Tennis Court and Swimming Pool.

Overall, I had a great experience at Brisbane/Gold Coast. It was a memorable trip and I’m glad I learnt a number of things there. Also glad we had the chance to tour around UQ as I got to learn their culture and lifestyle.
On 25th September, we went to XXXX Brewery in Brisbane to learn how they make the beer. We were so enthusiastic to learn and see it, before that we only know the taste of beer without seeing and knowing how the beer is brewed. First we have to put our bag in a place and the guide introduce himself. The guide brought us into the factory. When we walked in, we looked around the factory and felt so excited.

Before we went in, it was a compulsory to wear safety jacket, goggles and ear plugs. First, we watch videos which tell us the history about the beer. So, we knew the ingredients of the beer and the people who discover this beer. After that, we followed the guide to a place and there are so many tanks there. We were so confused at first but he explained all the steps by pointing from one tank to another tank in front of us. He also show us some of the ingredients and let us smell it. There are a lot of steps of producing the beer, different tank have different step of making the beer. The ingredients are brought from one tank to another tank and mix with other ingredients. Some of the ingredients were boiled with water which has very high temperature. Some of the workers monitor the process of making beer and make sure everything went well. The guide brought us to another place while explaining the function of the tanks and what are the things inside the tanks. We have to wear the ear plug because there was a very loud sound from the machine. After that, we went to a place where we get to taste the beer. The guide explained everything to us and brought us around the factory. He also answer our questions patiently.
Now we know it is not easy to make beer. The ingredients have to go through few steps and mix with other ingredients to produce the beer. They even need to taste the beer few times and make sure the taste is perfect before they put it in a bottle and sell it. They have various type of the beer from the one that is not bitter until the bitter one. We also get to taste four types of the beer and he told us the name of the beer and the taste. The taste of the beer was so good although some of it were bitter.

NOR SYAFIQ BIN ROSLI (E11303)

Best and memorable trip so far. Can’t be much more happier that I visited the place. At the same time, I learnt a couple of things when I was there. I’m glad we visited the university first when we reached Brisbane. Probably because we can first know their culture and gives us first impression on the Australians. I observed that the way of living/studying there is different than in Singapore. For example the way they teaches more hands-on and not just merely talking. And the study environment the students make out of themselves.

Also the coca-cola factory. After the tour, I really know how things work like how the coca-cola was made, wash and everything. Over there I also realised they didn’t use much of the manpower to carry on with the making of the cans and drinks. Instead they used machine, which is more efficient and faster for it to process. I’m glad they gave us a new packaging coca-cola drink to show to our friends/family back in Singapore. Overall I managed to learn some new things there in Australia. It’s been fun and maybe I would study there in Brisbane in the future?
I have to say that I learn a lot of things during the trip and it is an amazing opportunity for me to go to Australia with NYP. I enjoyed and learn a lot from all the factories and university we went to. The university there is so chilling and I think the environment there is somehow way better to study in than in Singapore. But the place I enjoy the most is definitely the dreamworld themepark. Got to take a lot of rides and managed to get into the backroom of their vet which I learn how they operate things around there. Here are some cute photos of the kangaroos!
GOH KIAT SIANG, ALEX (EI1307)

It has been two weeks since we returned from the trip to Brisbane. Other than the new friends that I met, we went to quite a few different places to learn about how the Australians work in different types of industries such as the finance side which is the Commonwealth Bank, the beverage side such as the Coca-Cola factory and the XXXX Beer Factory. However, I sort of like the visit to the University of Queensland as we were given a chance to experience the way the students and lecturers do their things. We also met a few Singaporeans who are currently studying there. In overall, this trip is worth going as a learning journey.
SEE HUI YEH (EI1307)

I enjoyed the trip very much, from the moment the plane departed Changi Airport till I return back to Singapore.

The trip had given me the motivation to work harder and score better in my exams with the visit to Queensland University and the fact that I got my result that I wanted during the trip.

We also went to Dreamworld which is a theme park. We had lots of fun together as a group that we could not experience it in Singapore.

GAN GUO YAN, BRUCE (BI1302)

Out of all the places I had visited, I really like the coca cola factory. I was able to learn how coca cola been made and the process of producing it. The tour guide was friendly and the way she explain was quite clear. Didn’t know that producing a coca cola could be a tedious thing to do. First, you need to ensure that the soda is well mix, secondly is the structure of the bottle, and thirdly is the coding for the expiry date been printed onto the bottle. During delivery, they will have ensure that the bottle is not been condensed. By preventing the bottle not been condensed, they will undergo a special path and delivery it to the supermarket to sell it. Once it start condensing, water vapour will be formed around the bottle and it will make the bottle wet and not sellable. I really like the souvenir given from the guide tour. But sadly I wasn’t able to bring it back to Singapore. The coke zero taste is way different from Singapore. The special thing I like about the factory outlet was that I was able to see that they have different colour of packing. At first I thought that they produce different flavour of coke. But in fact, the different colour of packing all contain the same flavour.
I find that the best part of the Australia trip is where we went to the Dreamworld Theme Park. I overcame my fear of heights and ventured on riding “The Claw”. It was an extremely thrilling ride and I had lots of fun playing with my friends. In this picture you can see Rahim, Alex and Eetang. This were the group of people that followed me to ride the crazy rides that almost make me puke. I want to give thanks to the school for providing this amazing experience that I can never get in Singapore. The weather in Australia is great and the people there are lovely. I enjoyed every single day spent in Auzzie and I hope to visit the place again in the future.
The trip to Australia which was organised by Nanyang polythenic (NYP) has provided me with a lot of information that I needed if I was to further my studies overseas and Australia is an option that I could consider.

The visit to the University Of Queensland (UQ) was the trip I enjoyed the most. It has provided me with information about the life of a student in Australia. While walking around UQ with the student tour guide, he provided us with useful information. He told us about life in Australia such as accommodation, fees amount, cost of living, income sources for students while studying, the organisations available to help us settle in Australia and the requirements to get into the universities there. While at UQ, I was amazed by the works done by the students that were shown to us. I hope I can do something similar to their projects in the final year project in my year 3 at NYP.

Trips to the coca factory and beer factory has also provided me with ideas about the final year project that I could do as we were shown the machines and computer software used to produce and manufacture the products.

I also enjoyed the trip to the bank as I learnt the processes in the bank that are done by the staff at the bank. This can help me to think of business computer solutions to do for my final year project or for the future if I ever work in the bank as an IT support personal.

In conclusion, the Australia trip has expanded my imaginative scope with ideas of the programs or products that I can built in future in my final year project or my working life. It has also given me an idea of how studying overseas would be like in future.
I went to Australia from 22nd September 2014 to 27th September 2014. It was my second time taking a flight and I was very excited for this trip. Initially, I was very nervous and also had the thought of backing off from this trip. That is because none of my friends wanted to sign up for the trip, while I signed up for it since I really wanted to go for it. I was a little worried that I will be lonely too. However, I was soon to realise that was wrong because I made a bunch of awesome friends through this trip. This trip gave me an opportunity to mix around with different students from various courses from Nanyang Polytechnic, School of Information Technology. Everyone was so friendly and we really bonded well.

We visited a lot of places in Brisbane and I am going to share on one particular place that I went to, and that would be ‘The University of Queensland’. The university there is very vibrant and the environment is very good. The education system there seems to be less stressful compared to ours. The students studying there did not seem so stressed up like how we, students, here seem like. The facilities over there is very big and interesting. There are a lot of places for students to chill and study at the same time.

The lecture theatres over there are very spacious and students are able to enjoy the scenery outside via the transparent glass panels. It allows students to relieve a little stress and at the same time makes learning more interesting. I hope a few years later after I obtain my diploma, I will be able to pursue my degree at The University of Queensland. I really like the environment over there and I would like to experience how it is like to study there.

Lastly, I would like to thank Nanyang Polytechnic, School of Information Technology for giving me such a rare opportunity to visit Australia and experience the culture there. I really learnt a lot through this trip and I am already missing this trip a lot.
CHAN EILEEN (BI1305)

My trip to the port of Australia, the thing that most impress me will be the machine they use is all robot and does not need any people to control and no rail track where the truck just need to park their vehicles at the place and the machine will be able to detect it and come to fetch it and more than one machine is able to operate without crashing with each other. This makes me feel that technology in Australia is way so advance.