

Written by the Beta Team of CSESoc
Produced by Wen Di LIM
Edited by CSESoc EXEC,
and Samuel POLLOCK.

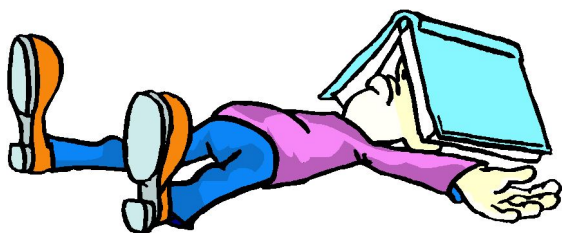
BETA

Free as in speech and our awesome BBQs.

Beta Issue # 80
Eta edition
Week 12 Session 1, 2013

ADVICE

The Exams are Looming...



And there is nothing that can stop it.

Everyone has their own methods of studying for the exams, but the Beta team hopes to present to you some useful tips to help you prepare for your exams.

Sleep.

It's important. Get lots of it. Although pulling an all-nighter may seem like the best thing for you to do right before an exam (afterall, it worked for all those assignments!) it is definitely an exam killer. Try to fix the wonky sleep schedule that you have had during the semester during the study break by regulating your sleep. In fact, try to aim to be at your best performance during your examinations periods (in the mornings and just after lunch) by practicing examination questions then, or doing revision. By the time your exams rolls around your body will know what to do.

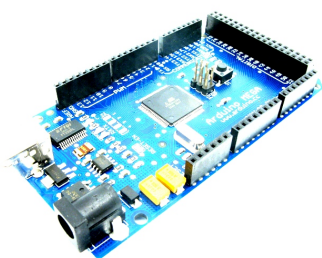
Diet.

Yeah yeah, so studying makes you want to stuff your face full of junk food and chocolate. And while chocolate may seem to give you a performance boost while you study, this sugar high may wear you out during your exam and even make you feel lethargic and sleepy. Try and regulate your eating times for optimal performance during certain hours of the day. Eating healthier alternatives (e.g. fruit) will also supercharge your body in preparation for your exams. We recommend lots and lots of grapes. Fact: grapes are full of compounds called resveratrol which not only improves your memory, but in the long run helps prevent alzheimer's. You'll be needing plenty of memory to download all that information you haven't learn over the semester...

Relaxation.

It's important too! If you spend all your time studying and don't set aside anytime to allow the information you have just forced down your throat to sink in, you'll get worse results. One good tip is to schedule a specific time everyday for you to just cool off and relax. When the clock ticks closer to your relaxation period, you'll start getting excited and possibly work more efficiently with the end so near in sight.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.



Workshops Roundup - page 3

News in Brief - 2

CSE Jobs Listing - pages 4-5

Puzzlers - 6

Bits in a Bunch - page 5

Crossword - 7

ADVICE

The Exams are Looming... - contd.

We definitely recommend a wind down period half an hour before you go to bed. After studying all day your brain will be too wired for you get a good night's sleep, and this will remedy it. Laze around. Do some yoga. Watch some tv. And this brings us to our next heading:

Scheduling.

Threading throughout the last three paragraphs has been the concept of regulating everything. Studying to a schedule is surprisingly effective - not only will you be clear on what you need to study and what you have left to study, you would be slowly optimising your body to be effective at the appropriate times. With a schedule you will be able to make sure that you're spending time on all the subjects you need to study for, which means you will be less panicked for exams that are stacked up one after another.

Organise your studies by the hour - it encourages quick bursts of study and you can take a short break (by short, I mean a maximum of 15 minutes) to refresh your mind for the next hour of study. One tip that our team offers is to write your daily quota of study (e.g. what you want to have mastered by the end of the day) written somewhere visible as a way to encourage yourself. Everytime you reach that quota, you can reward yourself with chocolate and feel the great joy of endorphins rushing through your system.

Practice makes perfect.

Seriously. It doesn't matter if you are doing a computing or a mathematics exam, practicing your algorithms will make your

life so much easier during the exam. If you know the kind of environment is going to be in, practice with that kind of setting. If your test is going to be a written test - write out all of your sums and algorithms, don't just do it on your computer. Make sure you know what sort of libraries you need to include to make your program compile, or note the sorts of programming errors that could cause a segfault. Using the computers in the labs will be different to using your own personalised computer - practice in a lab and recognise what sorts of things you will need to watch out for. An examination environment is already a dramatic change to the way you would usually work, so make yourself as comfortable as you can. And finally,

Share your problems.

There is another reason why course mates are so handy - they are there to share your world of pain. Don't keep the pressures and suffering of an impending exam cooped up inside your body, it would only make you depressed and suicidal in the long run. Instead, grab a friend along for the ride and test your knowledge against theirs. Have any niggling doubts about what sort of questions can be asked? Spread the fear to your friends! You know that if you don't study that question the lecturer will ask it. And maybe, just maybe, after the exam has passed you can all still be friends again.

With that, we hope that we have given you some good advice that you will find useful. Good luck for all your assignments, and we wish you all the best for your exams!

THE BETA TEAM.

News in Brief

Weapons of Mass Confusion

Critics and weapon experts have recently come out to question whether or not North Korea's infamous weapon stash is actually real. At a parade in April 2012, North Korea unveiled a new kind of missile. The so called KN-08, sits on enormous military trucks, while looking like they could strike long range targets such as the U.S. However, the intelligence community believe these missiles are actually fake. Each missile debuted at the parade were slightly different from each other. Fuel ports were changed in some, others had cables laid incorrectly, and some even had the look of cheap metal sheeting or even wood. Only time will tell if it is a failure to launch or not.

iAuction

If you fancy buying a part of Apple history, you may need to sell your organs. The Team Breker auction house in Cologne, Germany has listed an Apple I computer for a minimum of \$116,000 USD, though the auctioneer has estimated that the likely range for the computer is \$260,000 to \$400,000. Last November, the same auction house sold another Apple 1 for a

record breaking \$640,000. The machine currently belongs to a retired electrical engineer from New Orleans. The documentation for the machine includes a letter written by Steve Jobs, offering the owner an Apple II and \$400 for his Apple I. Auctions for vintage computers have been notoriously unpredictable, so it may still be a rotten apple.

Self Defense

A New Jersey light rail was shut down due to an umbrella being mistaken for a rifle. Someone had reported to police that a man wearing black pants, white dress shirt, with a cast on his arm was "armed with a long barrel assault weapon" had gotten on a train. Police started scouring surveillance videos immediately and managed to track down the man, but determined the only "weapon" he had on him was an umbrella he had planned to use to fight off the rain hitting him. The passenger was let go, and the police were left to face the downpour of criticism.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

News in Brief - contd.

One Xbox to Rule Them All

Microsoft has recently released it's latest gaming console - the Xbox One. However, the Xbox One is so much more than a gaming machine, providing the ability for users to hook up the Xbox to a cable box and hence watch television on it. Yes, while you are busy sniping other players in CoD and making sure that some sneaky player doesn't snipe you from behind, you will

also have the extra option of watching your favourite Game of Thrones series on the side. The Xbox One also conveniently comes with Skype so that you will no longer miss messages and calls during your gaming sessions. In-game chat has never been better.

PATRICK CHUNG

CSE SOCIETIES & EVENTS

Workshops Roundup

As we close the semester, let us take a walk back in time to the many workshops that CSESoc had organised to expose students to the different kinds of companies out there as well as introduce the different kinds of technology and software that they may work with.

Essential Tech Workshops

CSESoc held an essential tech workshop in Week 3 that was an amalgamation of four half hour workshops introducing networks, git, linux and programming competitions. The workshop was a very good basis for students who were unfamiliar with these software tools, and basic commands for git and linux were taught. A total of 49 students attended the 2 hour workshop, with a few only attending the particular introductory workshop that they were interested in.

Cake of the day - No cake. Pizza was proffered.

Google App Engine CodeLab

In Week 4 tech giant Google sponsored two buses to fetch CSE students from UNSW to their office in Pyrmont. It was an opportunity for students to tour the office and find out more about the working environment offered in Google as well as try their hands on writing an app using the Google app engine. Languages used that day included python and html. Many android plushies and google sunglasses were won, and the night ended with a free for all grab of the remaining prizes on display. A total of 105 people attended the event.

Cake of the day - Cake was a lie!

WithIT Workshop

Tamas Ridley, the managing director of WithIT.net.au came in Week 5 to talk about the importance of gap training for finding a job. Group activities were engaged during the workshop as an introduction to the kinds of pressures an employee will need to face when working in a team, the sort that many students are not taught to face in uni. A total count of 16 students turned up on the day.

Cake of the day - Om Nom Cheesecake.

Arduino Workshop

CSESoc partnered with the CREATE society of UNSW to run a dev workshop in Week 9 which focused on developing with

Arduinos and wireless hardware. Presented by Nathan Adler, the workshop taught about long-range (up to 1km) RF data transmission on an Arduino platform by trying to get students to send transmissions between Arduinos. As CSESoc took this opportunity to purchase a whole bunch of Arduinos as an investment, more workshops that will explore the different applications of this platform will definitely be organised in the future.

Cake of the day - Cake was a lie!

Publications Workshop

In Week 11, the CSESoc and CSE Revue Pubs combined to have an action packed, fun filled workshop that taught photography, photoshop and the finer points of poster making to anyone that was interested. All that hard work eventuated in a super awesome poster for the game Murder that you will be seeing around next semester!

Cake of the day - Still no cake, but chocolates were a thing.

Well, that is it for the semester. We hope that these workshops have brought you some interesting technology and hopefully inspired you to go forth and begin your own project. Next semester we will have even more workshops that should hopefully bring more fun (and more cake!) than this semester!

PIERRE ESTEPHAN - CSESOC TECH HEAD



CAREERS

CSE Job Listings

Interested in getting a job over the summer? Need an internship to graduate? Don't know where to look? The CSE website has a page dedicated to job listings that anyone with the necessary skills can apply for. Here are some of the open jobs that you may be interested in.

Company	Embedded Systems Lab, CSE, UNSW
Position	Graphics Designer
Position Type	Postgraduate, Undergraduate, Alumni
Category	Casual

This job will involve making figures and power point slides for commercial representations. Candidates will be expected to prove their capability by providing previous designs and slides that they have made.

Company	Small Multiples
Position	Creative Developer
Position Type	Postgraduate, Undergraduate, Alumni
Category	Full Time, Part Time or Vacation Work

You would work alongside other developers and interaction designers on a diverse range of projects, with clients such as the ABC, SBS, Fairfax Media, NICTA, Google, Investa, and other public and private sector organisations. Requires expert JavaScript/Python knowledge.

Company	Next Telecom
Position	Provisioning Consultant
Position Type	Postgraduate, Alumni
Category	Full Time or Part Time

This position is all about customer relations and providing them with the appropriate responses to any queries or issues that they may have. Some of the many tasks that you will have to do includes installing:

- routers
- phone systems
- switches
- and Broadsoft (a VOIP software).

Company	Oracle Labs
Position	Internship
Position Type	Postgraduate, Undergraduate, Alumni
Category	Full Time

This is a six month internship situated in Oracle Labs, Brisbane where you would take up either the research assistant position or the Java JNI vulnerability detection position. Your project will involve improving the existing pattern support of their static code analyser to allow the specification of simple security vulnerabilities. Necessary skills include:

- programming skills in C/C++
- a good understanding of static analysis
- familiarity with a compiler infrastructure such as LLVM

Company	Tiger Spike
Position	Junior Software Engineer
Position Type	Postgraduate, Alumni
Category	Full Time

Software Engineers at TigerSpike are expected to research, design, implement, test and maintain software that supports TigerSpike's business goals. Some key responsibilities that you will have include:

- developing and prototyping software
- peer reviewing and critique software designs and architectures
- providing accurate development task effort estimates
- commenting and documenting code
- contributing to development wikis

Company	Linkedin
Position	Software Engineer - New Grad
Position Type	Postgraduate, Undergraduate
Category	Full Time

Linkedin are hiring students graduating in 2013 for a variety of technology areas, such as:

- applications
- front-end engineering
- mobile applications
- systems and infrastructure
- data analysis
- tools engineering
- and performance engineering

Company	Sirca Limited
Position	Junior Systems Administrator
Position Type	Undergraduate
Category	Casual

Sirca is Australia's leading eResearch and online service provider supporting financial and data-intensive research services to over 200 universities, regulators and financial market participants world-wide. Your will be in charge of providing network/systems administration support by:

- setting up new users
- administrating and managing local area network,
- samba
- email servers
- managing desktop machines
- and internet connectivity

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

CAREERS

CSE Job Listings - contd.

Company	Direct Technology
Position	.Net Developer/Tester
Position Type	Postgraduate, Undergraduate, Alumni
Category	Full Time or Part Time

Direct Technology is looking for .Net developers and testers who are fluent speakers of a non-English language to work on an exciting new project. More details on the project can be provided upon application. Technical skills required include:

- use of a mobile phone (touch, swipe, click, flash, reset, camera, location services)
- program in C#.NET
- automate testing

- project/program management

- fluent in any combination of the languages below: French, Italian, German, Spanish, Chinese S&T, Russian, Dutch, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese P&B, Swedish, Finnish, Danish

More information about any of the jobs listed in the article above can be found at the CSE Job Listings website at:

<http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/db/do/jobs/list.php>.

THE BETA TEAM

OPINION

You know what really gets my bits in a bunch?

Software updaters.

Now look, it's a fact of life: nobody writes software correctly the first time around. Even Linus Torvalds made a mistake, when he forgot to make Git usable by humans when he first released it. Security holes, bugs, and usability issues are always going to crop up. So unfortunately, we're not going to be able to get around the whole "software update" issue until every desktop application hits the CloudTM and the world of computing becomes sunshine and rainbows. Instead, we're going to have to deal with the myriad of frustrating update techniques that are consistently implemented inconsistently in every application that isn't handled by that godsend known as a package manager.

Now first of all, if you as a software developer actually give a single damn about delivering a quality product consistently to your customers, why haven't you implemented auto-updating? If making the upgrade process as smooth as possible is not one of the highest priority features on your backlog, you are a thoroughly confused human being, especially if your target market is those poor non-technical people of society. You can't just pop up a dialogue every time the app starts saying that you should upgrade to v2.9.11 and that you should visit our ad-inundated website to do so. They don't care. They just want to do what they need to do. Even I don't care. What does this upgrade give me? A new super-convenient search toolbar for Internet Explorer that wraps around Google but gives me your ads instead? No thanks. Tell me that this is a security update that patches up an arbitrary code execution exploit, maybe now you've got my attention.

And if you're going to implement auto-updating, just please, please don't miss the whole goddamn point. You want to make the user's experience better, not make things easier for your support team by forcing every single computer in the world into

a reboot to install the latest update. I'm looking at you Microsoft. What the actual hell were you thinking? The amount of pain you have caused across the world every time you want to install a priority update for Windows probably adds up to something criminal - my own estimate being something close to impaling a small child. If you're not one of the lucky people to have seen the little popup box in the corner telling you that it's about to violently pull the plug on whatever you're doing and mess about with your system, you lose. You lose that report you were working on. You lose that episode of Game of Thrones you were downloading. You lose that photo you were photoshopping for your girlfriend. You lose that video you were editing for revue. You lose, and Microsoft... wins? Don't mess with my crap Microsoft. You can reboot my machine when I say you can reboot my machine.

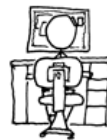
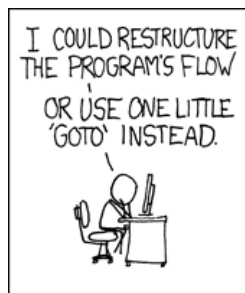
Now, I don't hate all software updaters. Google Chrome has an example of a software updater I don't hate, because you don't even know it's there. It's magic and it's brilliant. Every time an update is available, it quietly downloads it in the background and patches itself up. And it doesn't need to re-download the whole damn program again, it only downloads the difference between your current version and the new version. If the update is important and needs a restart, Chrome politely informs you and patiently waits for you to do so. That is how you write an auto-updater. Take heed, everybody else in the whole damn world.

TL;DR: Updating your software is about as pain-free as being flattened by a train.

LUKE TSEKOURAS

ENTERTAINMENT

Comic - XKCD

**Alt Text:**

Neal Stephenson thinks it's cute to name his labels "dengo".

ENTERTAINMENT

Puzzlers

Congratulations to Benjamin Pinto for getting all the correct answers to the puzzles from when they were last printed!

1. Albert is looking at Betty. Betty is looking at Charlie. Albert is a computer programmer. Charlie is not. Is there a computer programmer looking at a non-computer programmer?

2. Add punctuation to the following, to salvage a coherent sentence (or two, if you like): John while James had had had had had had had had had had the approval of the teacher

3. What three-letter word can go before the words Date, Kind, Power, and Hood, to produce four new words?

4. When I was 14, my mother was 41, and she is now twice as old as I am. How old am I?

5. Fill in the blanks in the following paragraph: "The number of 1's in this paragraph is ____; the number of 2's is ____; the number of 3's is ____; and the number of 4's is ____."

Don't forget to email your solutions to:

beta.puzzles@cse.unsw.edu.au

EWAN SCOTT

ENTERTAINMENT

Some More Very Bad Jokes

What leaves a longer memory than a passionate kiss?

A stab wound.

Why did the chicken commit suicide?

To get to the other side.

What do you call a deer with no eyes?

No eye-deer.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

Why do fish know how much they weigh?

Because they have their own scales.

Why did the little mermaid wear sea shells?

Cause A and B shells were too small.

What does a mermaid wear to maths? Algae-bra.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?

A stick.

What's red and smells like blue paint?

Red paint.

What's green and kills you if it falls off a tree?

A pool table.

What do you call a LAN party in Australia? The LAN Down Under.

A man walks into a bar. It hurts.

Why did the lumberjack cut down the tree?

Because it was his job.

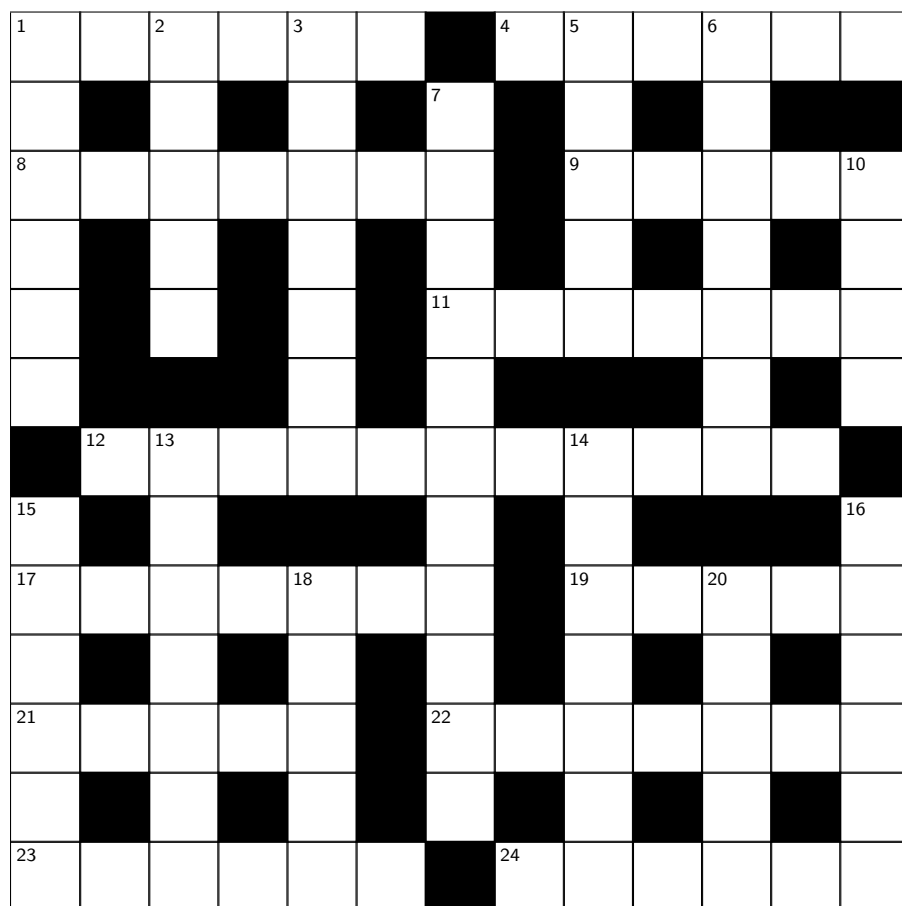
What did the cannibal do after dumping his girlfriend?

Wipe his butt.

THE FRESHERZ

ENTERTAINMENT

Crossword



Down

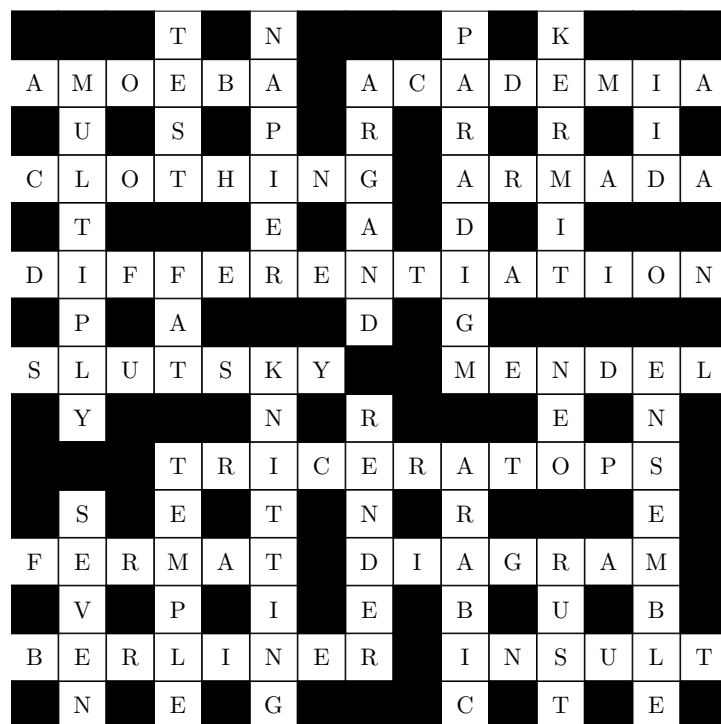
1. Island nation in the Mediterranean
2. Boredom
3. The Windy City
5. Neopet resembling a griffin
6. Amino acid present in most energy drinks
7. Association
10. Famous Sicilian volcano
13. Buddhist and Hindu ideal, grunge band
14. Steampunk means of transportation
15. World's largest country by size
16. Stinging plant
18. Stop
20. With 4. Across, Famous English physicist (5,6)

OSWYN BRENT

Across

1. Persuade
4. See 20. Down
8. Chief priest or Pope
9. Makeup for colouring cheeks
11. Peninsula in south-west Europe
12. Drunk
17. Major city and province of the Netherlands
19. Large European river, historically divided France and Germany
21. Functional and object-oriented programming language
22. Vital organ of a large mammal (2,5)
23. To rise from sleep
24. A web server and a Native American culture

Last week's solution:



CSE EVENTS & SOCIETIES

Upcoming Events

CSESoc Awesome BBQ

Monday, 3rd June, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Physics Lawn

Aren't you sick of all those free sausages you get from the normal BBQs? Well to help you procrastinate more before the exams, CSESoc is throwing a super awesome BBQ filled with bacons, eggs, chicken skewers, corns, sausages with real meat and loads of other food! Drinks will also be free and there will even be cakes and cookies!

CSESoc, the feast is coming.

CSESoc Trivia Night

Friday, May 31st, 6:00p till late

k17 Seminar Room

It is that time of the semester again, trivia time! Think you know it all? Prove it to your colleagues in a night filled with fun, games, food and drink with some awesome prizes to be won.

Spaces are limited, so make sure you register before hand at <http://tinyurl.com/cse13trivia> ! Max 8 people per team. Registration on the night is subjected to availability (do it now!)



CSE Revue Writing Session

Thursday, May 28th, 6pm

k17, Meeting Room 201B (lvl 2)

Got any crazy ideas you would like to see on stage? Come along and share them!

CSE Revue BBQ!

Thursday, May 30th, 12:30 - 1:30

Library Lawn

There'll be another Revue BBQ next Thursday. This time we'll be moving from our traditional(-ish) position for a temporary trip to upper campus! the BBQ will be held at the gravel area of the Library Lawn at the usual time, so be sure to leave your comfortable basement and trek it up the hill!

CSE Revue Social Dance Block

Thursday, May 30th, 6pm

k17, Seminar Room

Ever wondered what it takes to put on a sketch comedy show? Here is your chance to find out. At Revue-in-a-day, we create a short sketch comedy show from the ground up - all in a single day. This includes deciding theme, writing scripts, creating props, creating videos, making food, designing the show logo, rehearsing scripts, creating a show programme, and much more (including of course, performing the show).

CSE Revue Camp

July 26th to 28th

Myuna Bay Sports Centre

Cost: \$60 for Arc members, \$70 for non-Arc.

CSE Revue camp 2013 will be held at Myuna Bay Sports Centre on the 26th to 28th of July. Its a great way to meet your fellow Revue-ers, and enjoy the end of the holidays. Spots are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment!

Register at cserevue.org/au/rms/camp/registrations/signup.

Visit our camp Facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/265092333636377/>

VINCENT WONG - CSESOC SOCIAL HEAD

This Edition of Beta is Sponsored By...

