NextGen Code Camp Press Release - 01/03/2016

NextGen Code Camp goes live across Sydney's Northern Beaches

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: NextGen Code Camp, a fresh new computer coding course aimed at the next generation of computer experts, has been launched in Sydney's Northern Beaches. The course aims to teach kids, from school years 6 to 10, JavaScript programming techniques and give them essential skills in a world of fast advancing technology.

Brainchild of Peter Januarius, NextGen Code Camp aims to set a new standard in how to teach kids the joys of simple coding without it becoming boring or too complex. Peter Januarius said: "We want to inspire young people to learn something new and give them a great experience of creating a game using coding and animation techniques." 118

As well as inspiring kids to code independently, another main aim from NextGen Code Camp is to support the current ICT curriculum taught in schools and to partner with Northern Beaches places of education and help teachers put coding on the map.

With two and three day courses starting at $150 and $225 (plus GST), respectively, each fun packed day starts at day 9am and finishes at 4pm - lunch time is at 12:30 to 1pm. Courses start with introductions and then looking at fundamental coding concepts. Once this has been addressed, kids will start to build a 2D game which could end up looking something like a simple space invaders game. On future courses, NextGen would also like to create more genres of games like maze or pattern games. 121

Peter Januarius said one of his main objectives with NextGen Code Camp was to see more girls getting involved with computers and particularly coding. He said; "So we want to show kids it's really fun but not just for boys. In the last 20 years the amount of girls involved in computer science has dropped quite a lot due to the new-style game consoles. NextGen will appeal to girls as much boys as it can be lots of fun and should be available for everyone.

Trials of early NextGen Code Camp courses throughout January 2016 were extremely successful, following on from a pilot course ran back in October 2915. Four courses were ran at three locations and managed to attract over 60 kids, sparking interest from two schools (Killarney Heights High School and St Luke's Grammar School) to run courses in April. 140

As well as centring courses at high end schools, NextGen would like to move into more underprivileged school settings and offer free courses within the school day or offsite in the school holidays.

Although current plans are in place to run NextGen Code Camp courses during school holidays, once momentum picks up Peter Januarius plans to expand his team and run more bootcamp-style courses for adults. He also highlighted other requirements which may need to be implemented. He said; "The course we run for children is a two-day or three-day course for beginners only but some of the children who attended these displayed the skills and willingness to progress to the next level. Hopefully by April an intermediate course will be  written to help them achieve this goal. These courses would likely cater for up to 12 people and would only be available on an invite basis." 149

More information on NextGen Code Camp can be found by simply heading to [www.nextgencodecamp.com.au](http://www.nextgencodecamp.com.au/) where future attendees can also enter their email address in the box provided. Details and dates of the next course along with pricing will then be sent to interested applicants. A Facebook page has also been set up where satisfied attendees post feedback from courses attended. Peter Januarius can be contacted at 0428 303117.

This is an exciting venture and it is believed that once kids start their coding careers they will be able to innovate and create worlds for future generations to enjoy. 96

- ENDS -

624 Words