



MEDIA RELEASE

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Winners of ASX Schools Sharemarket Games

The ASX Schools Sharemarket Games have concluded for 2010, with 64,939 students from 2,120 schools across Australia having taken part.

Game 1 started on 4 March with students buying and selling into a challenging market impacted by debt issues in Greece, a proposed super profit tax in Australia, and concerns about the sustainability of China's strong economic growth. By the start of Game 2 on 19 August it was a matter of determining if the market would recover or if volatility would continue. The top players used a variety of strategies - some buy and hold; some traded more actively.

The national winner of Game 1 was Josh Croft in Year 12 at Duval High School, New South Wales. Josh used a buy and sell strategy, buying 15 times and selling 13 times. His strategy paid off providing a return of 18% on his initial \$50,000 investment. This compared to a fall of 3.32% in the All Ordinaries Index over the same period.

The national winner of Game 2 was Alex Vukadinovic in Year 10 at Caulfield Grammar School, Victoria. Alex ended the game with a portfolio value of \$62,777. His 25.5% return was well above the All Ordinaries Index, which rose 4.68% during the 10-week game period. Alex used a buy and hold strategy, buying seven times and selling only once.

Secondary students playing the ASX's Schools Sharemarket Games are given a notional \$50,000 to invest, with all buying and selling done using actual market prices at the time of the trades. Students can only trade 10 times per day and are charged brokerage on each trade.

Trophies and prize money were presented to the winning students at an awards ceremony in Sydney today, hosted by Paul Clitheroe, Chairman of The Australian Government Financial Literacy Board.

The Games provide first-hand experience in understanding the sharemarket. The player with the highest portfolio value at the end of each Game is declared the winner and shares in a prize pool valued at over \$27,000 per game. The ASX Schools Sharemarket Games were sponsored by Citi.

A list of national and state winners, and quotes by the students on their trading strategies follow.

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ASX Schools Sharemarket Game 1 Results

National Winners Game 1

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking	State
JC Inc	Duval High School	Josh Croft	\$ 59,147	1	NSW
Ellis Ltd	Wingham High School	Chris Ellis	\$ 58,585	2	NSW
Paul Wong	Waverley Christian College	Paul Wong	\$ 57,821	3	VIC

ASX Schools Sharemarket Game 2 Results

National Winners Game 2

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking	State
Vuca	Caulfield Grammar School	Alex Vukadinovic	\$62,777	1	VIC
Hunter Pty Ltd	Ipswich Grammar School	Keegan Hunter	\$61,590	2	QLD
Lone Soldier 5	The Friends' School	Charles Archer	\$61,398	3	TAS

National 1st place and Victoria 1st place, Game 2

Alex Vukadinovic - Year 10 at Caulfield Grammar School

"I came to learn about the Game in my Commerce class when my teacher introduced the opportunity to invest virtual money into real shares. My mind was opened up to the possibilities of the sharemarket by my family and a family friend. A piece of advice given to me at the start was to 'invest in oil and metals, as they may shoot up over a short period of time.'

"Knowing that the Game only ran for three months this advice was a strong influence on my buying/selling of shares."

State Winners

South Australia / Northern Territory

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Mad C	Mount Barker High School	Josh Zakelij and Salvatore Scarfo	\$57,330	1
The Wizards	Saint Ignatious' College	Anthony Pirone and Nick Kirchner	\$56,959	2
NCBC	St. John's College	Brendan Thornton, Stephen Waterhouse and Tim Luck	\$56,639	3

South Australia / Northern Territory 1st place, Game 2

Josh Zakelij and Salvatore Scarfo - Year 11 at Mount Barker High School

"The strategies we used included...buying shares when the prices were low and selling them at a price that was higher ... We also looked for shares that were about to release dividends and sold them when the payment of dividends were made in order to profit from the higher prices, as those companies tended to increase in prices as well.

"We felt that it was too expensive to continuously buy and sell shares, so we patiently waited and sat on some of the shares from the start. This gave us the opportunity to sit out any short-term falls as some shares, such as mining shares, were constantly changing. This Game taught us the importance of researching information and to use the graphs provided on the website to help us understand the fluctuations."

New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Eternity Star	Sydney Boys High	Howe Chen	\$60,348	1
MarRon	Duval High School	Marshall Henderson and Ron Mison	\$59,947	2
9A22	The King's School	William Tugwell	\$59,336	3

New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory 1st place, Game 2

Howe Chen - Year 10 at Sydney Boys High

"At the beginning of the competition, I selected companies that I thought had the greatest potential for growth; this included mostly small companies (eg Gunns Limited, Infigen Energy). I thought that this would be the quickest way to increase the value of my portfolio. Also, I bought shares which had high dividends which was a major part of my success.

"Checking constantly on the Dow Jones the night before, I anticipated the performance of the ASX, selling my shares when the Dow Jones went down. One major share which contributed to my success was 'ASX' which was associated with merger rumours with Singapore Exchange causing the share price to go up 20% in one day.

"What happened on the last day was probably the most important. I sold most of my shares in the morning and the All Ordinaries went down by 50 points causing most other syndicates to drop while I remained the same. This was an important strategy which allowed me to finish ahead of my competitors in a very close Game."

Western Australia

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Burchill	Mazenod College	Austin Burchill	\$ 61,002	1
Cruise 12	Mazenod College	Trent Jose	\$60,079	2
Good Area Investments	Hale School	Jack Sirett and Kim O'Brien	\$59,958	3

Western Australian 1st Place, Game 2

Austin Burchill - Year 9 at Mazenod College.

"I have played the Game before and concentrated on resource companies. I visited the companies list and reviewed the charts. After my initial investments I didn't trade very much to minimise brokerage."

Victoria

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Vuka	Caulfield Grammar School	Alex Vukadinovic	\$ 62,777	1
Seahawk	Ballarat Grammar	Jake Laidlaw	\$ 59,082	2
Ugly Child	Billanook College	Alistair Bayliss	\$58,828	3

Tasmania

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
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Lone Soldier 5	The Friends' School	Charles Archer	\$ 61,398	1
V Train	The Friends' School	Samuel Volker	\$60,392	2
Yao Ming	The Friends' School	Patrick Butler, Peta Tabor and Reilly Smith	\$59,089	3

National 3rd place and Tasmanian 1st place, Game 2
Charles Archer - Year 12 at The Friends' School

"When the Game opened on the first day I made the decision to invest in the mining, oil and gas sectors. I purchased four companies and decided to hold on to these companies for as long as I could. At the start of the Game my portfolio value declined dramatically.

"With two and a half weeks to go, a couple of the companies in my portfolio had a relatively large increase in value. One and a half weeks before Game end . . . I decided to cash in my shares and wait to see what the market would do. With only a few days of the Game remaining, I lost my top placing and fell to a position where I doubted if I would now finish with a placing. Two days before the Game ended the market began to fall, closing the gap between myself and the players ahead of me.

"Coming into the last day I still needed to make up one more place and it was not looking promising. A turn of the market at lunch time led to the market falling 40 points, allowing me to slide into first position and stay there for the duration of the day."

Queensland

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Hunter Pty Ltd	Ipswich Grammar School	Keegan Hunter	\$ 61,590	1
Monster Inc in	Padua College	Cameron Bloomer and Josh Catling	\$60,197	2
Billionaire Utensils 481	Brisbane Grammar School	Austyn Boardman, Cormac Jarver and Jonas Sinjan	\$59,268	3

National 2nd place and Queensland 1st place, Game 2
Keegan Hunter - Year 10 at Ipswich Grammar School

"My overall strategy . . . revolved around four smaller ones which I used depending on the market. The first one . . . was to invest in shares that had experienced a recent downfall. If they had, I did not immediately invest in them, but rather researched and waited a few days to see whether their general trend would take them upwards. If I believed they were going up, I bought into them.

"The second...was to invest the full 25%...into one share. Through this, I minimised brokerage in relation to the number of shares, but more importantly, if the shares rose sharply, my profits would also be at a maximum. The downfall to this though, was if the share crashed . . . then I would also lose.

"The third strategy was not to make hasty decisions, which is a painful lesson I learnt in the middle of the Game...if a share suddenly [moves] by a fair percentage, it doesn't mean you have to get out.

"The fourth and last was to watch companies that were paying a dividend. When a company announced a dividend I would work out what my net profit would be out of the payment. If it was over \$300, then on most occasions I bought them. The downfall to this was that the share either lost the dividend amount or close to it. Despite this, all I had to do was sit on the share for a week or two, wait until it made me some money, and then sell."