



MEDIA RELEASE

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Winners of ASX Schools Sharemarket Games

The ASX Schools Sharemarket Games have concluded for 2009, with 67,648 students from 2,182 schools across Australia having taken part.

Student players are given a notional \$50,000 to invest over a 10-week period, with all buying and selling done using real market prices. Students can only trade 10 times per day and are charged brokerage on each trade.

The national winner of Game 1, which started on 5 March, was Shaun Byrnes, a Year 10 student from Catholic College in Wodonga, Victoria. Shaun achieved a return of 99% on his initial \$50,000 investment. This compared to a 22% increase in the S&P/ASX 200 index over the same period.

The national winner of Game 2, which started on 19 August, was John Forsyth, a Year 11 student from Mercedes College in Springfield, South Australia. John achieved a return of 21% compared to an 8% rise in the S&P/ASX 200 index during the 10-week game period.

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 Sharemarket Games were sponsored by Citi, Bond University and Westpac Broking. Trophies and prize money were presented to the winning students at an awards ceremony in Sydney today, hosted by Paul Clitheroe, Chairman of the Financial Literacy Board.

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

For further information:

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ASX Schools Sharemarket Game 1 Results

National Winners Game 1

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking	State
The Big Dero	Catholic College Wodonga	Shaun Byrnes	\$99,840.91	1	VIC
Summer Industries	AB Paterson College	Lee Summerville	\$93,685.47	2	QLD
Rippage	Assumption College	Matt Kiriakopoulos	\$89,484.46	3	VIC

ASX Schools Sharemarket Game 2 Results

National Winners Game 2

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking	State
Johnthebigcat	Mercedes College	John Forsyth	\$60,845.26	1	SA
James Moylan	Killarney Heights High School	James Moylan	\$60,320.22	2	NSW
Smith & Co	Kinross College	Alex Smith & Cameron Lynch	\$60,160.87	3	WA

National 1st and SA 1st Place, Game 2

John Forsyth - Year 11 at Mercedes College

"... I did not have one specific strategy, but several. I thought it would be best to invest in mining companies and large retailers. Initially I invested in mostly mining shares as I thought there would be significant growth but some shares did not perform so I was forced to sell them. BHP was not performing to the level I required so I sold them.

"The six companies I finally invested in were spread over financial services (Challenger Financial Services), retail (JB HI-FI), and online internet companies (Wotif and Seek). I knew people would be spending more and more money as we were coming out of almost a recession, looking for cheaper holidays and even looking for different jobs.

"I only made a few trades throughout the competition as I thought that for real growth, shares had to be left alone to slowly increase on their own. I avoided buying shares in banks as I knew that the value of those shares was decreasing ..."

State Winners

South Australia

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Johnthebigcat	Mercedes College	John Forsyth	\$60,845.26	1
CC5	Concordia College	Jackson Kamm & Michael McBryde	\$58,704.24	2
JLT	St Peter's College	David Ogilvie	\$58,481.33	3

New South Wales

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
James Moylan	Killarney Heights High School	James Moylan	\$60,320.22	1
Ian	Lithgow High School	Ian Nightingale	\$59,282.86	2
Lockie	Moruya High School	Lachlan Gamble	\$58,973.47	3

National 2nd and NSW 1st Place, Game 2

James Moylan - Year 9 at Killarney Heights High School

"My strategy was to look around the market for good companies at the beginning of the Game. Once I decided on them, I invested all \$50,000 into those companies. I chose to invest in the big four banks, JB HI-FI and Rio Tinto. Once I had done that, I simply sat on them and watched the share prices rise over time."

Western Australia

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Smith & Co	Kinross College	Alex Smith & Cameron Lynch	\$60,160.87	1
Bailey 007	Mazenod College	Nathaniel Bailey	\$58,988.50	2
Bond 007	Mazenod College	James Whitely	\$58,755.87	3

National 3rd and Western Australian 1st Place, Game 2

Alex Smith & Cameron Lynch - Year 9 at Kinross College

"We looked at the history of the companies before we picked. We viewed share market prices carefully before and after the stockmarket crash (at the beginning of January) to see their progress. We had seen several companies doing well again, so we picked those ones for investments and also chose ones that we had good knowledge of e.g. JB HI-FI and Wesfarmers. The team made a decision not to select mining companies and also farm products because of the risk of quick losses."

Victoria

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Twinkle Toes	Wangaratta High School	Joanna Mayer, Caitlin Jones & Rachael Newman	\$60,054.27	1
Jin Xi	Camberwell High School	Jin Xi	\$59,774.34	2
Shandan	Catholic College Bendigo	Danielle Petraglia & Shannon Keogh	\$59,758.04	3

Victoria 1st Place, Game 2

Joanna Mayer, Caitlin Jones & Rachael Newman - Year 10 at Wangaratta High School

"Our strategy was to pick the shares that we were most interested in and the businesses that we support and know about, like Harvey Norman, ANZ, Billabong, Qantas, and Telstra, etc. Once we bought our shares we held on to them because we didn't want to sell them as they were going up in price. At the very end of the game we were worried because Harvey Norman was going down. We were thinking about selling them but didn't because we didn't want to spend the money."

Tasmania

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
Titanic Factor	The Friends' School	Caleb Cooper	\$59,736.25	1
Saltmarsh	Australian Technical College-Northern Tasmania	Steven Saltmarsh	\$59,092.21	2
Hritchie	The Friends' School	Hannah Ritchie	\$57,977.50	3

Tasmanian 1st Place, Game 2

Caleb Cooper - Year 10 at The Friends' School

"At the start I bought into retail companies, banks as well as Woolworths and JB HI-FI (four companies in total) and all of these companies rose with the rest of the economy during the first few weeks. Nearing the end, retail and most other companies began a small decline which was where I sold out all but JB HI-FI which continued to rise up till the end."

Queensland

Syndicate Name	School	Student Names	Portfolio Value	Ranking
ipunch	Villanova College	Beau Crane	\$59,095.58	1
The Chrissy Frys	All Hallows School	Chrissy Fry, Laura Silburn, Maddi Smith, Sara Williams & Tue Nguyen	\$58,280.92	2
SMS	Iona College	Jacob Macri	\$58,161.62	3

Queensland 1st Place, Game 2

Beau Crane - Year 9 at Villanova College

"... as I learnt how to play the ASX Game, I learnt that on each of the shares, there was a History Price Chart ... which showed the average price for the company shares. As I searched through the History Price Charts, I found that most banks had increasing share prices such as the Bank of Queensland, ANZ and the NAB, as well as JB HI-FI ... Checking the newspaper every morning was also another way to react quickly to sharemarket movements. I used these approaches for the first few weeks, but as I realised that the companies I had chosen were increasing in value, I stopped investing but I kept an eye out in the newspaper to check that the companies continued to increase. Overall, I found that these strategies were very successful."