

TRAVEL REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ANNMARIE ERICSSON
UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE
SWEDEN

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes my research visit at University of Melbourne between 27 October and 15 November 2005. During my stay in Melbourne I worked with Dr. James Bailey at the Institute of Software Engineering at Melbourne University in Australia. The trip was funded by ARTES ++.

2. MOTIVATION

My research is about analyzing rule based real-time systems. Since I am working in the research group for Distributed Real-Time Systems in Skövde, I have good support concerning the area of real-time systems in my home University. Dr. Bailey has done a lot of work in the area of formal analysis of rule based systems and his knowledge is a good complement to my current supervisor group.

3. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

I was very well received by Dr. James Bailey and his group and especially by James who helped me a lot with my research work, Elsa who showed me around and by Dr. Amy Unruh with whom I shared office during my stay in Melbourne.

During my first week at Melbourne University I was listening to several talks of Honor (Bachelor degree project presentations basically). Australia has the opposite seasons to Sweden so their long summer vacation starts in November and last over Christmas and the first week in November is an examination week. The University was kind of deserted the following weeks since all students went on summer vacation.

I got a lot of feedback considering my thesis work by Dr. Bailey who really took the time to help me and pointed out weaknesses in my project that I had not foreseen. We identified the outline for a paper that will be produced in the future.

I packed a lot of future work in my bag home. I do not regret this trip and I am thankful to James and ARTES ++ who made it possible. The trip to Melbourne gave me a lot of new ideas, new inputs to my project and increased motivation for working on my project.

4. MELBOURNE

There are at least four universities in Melbourne and University of Melbourne is the biggest of them. (And the very best according to the very objective view of some of the staff at Melbourne University.)

Although Melbourne is a big city with 3.5 million citizens, it has the feeling of a small city. It is rather a set of several suburbs than one big city. Even though I only had 10 minutes walk from the very center of Melbourne it did not feel like if I

was in a very big city. It is also appealing that they have a local holiday because of a horse race (1 Nov. every year is Cup Day). Being a horse freak I immediately felt like home. The scariest thing in this town is the traffic since all of them is driving on the wrong side of the road and in the middle of the mess there are trams and they don't stop for anything in their way.



FIGURE 1. The citizens of Australia are nice and friendly.

5. SUMMARY

My visit to Melbourne University gave me invaluable input to my research project and the exciting experience of close meetings with kangaroos, koalas and small penguins. This is a trip I would like to do again (if my kids allow me to go again). However, next time I will remember to bring earplugs since it is a very long flight and it is even longer when small children are crying in a seat nearby all the way from Shanghai to London.

UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE SWEDEN
E-mail address: anmarie.ericsson@his.se