

HUNTERS HILL

Top tech skills earn Google scholarship

RETREAT IS HUGE BOOST FOR ADELE'S CAREER

Matthew Connellan

IT IS the highest of praises in the computer world, recognition by Google.

But Hunters Hill's Adele Jackson has managed it, and she hasn't even finished school.

The MLC Burwood Year 12 student was awarded a Google Junior Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship, which is designed to encourage women who excel in computing and technology.

The scholarship saw Ms Jackson, who is studying the International Baccalaureate, invited on a Google retreat with other finalists and scholarship recipients.

The retreat included workshops, guest speakers

and social activities for those involved.

"To win a scholarship was really wonderful, and going on the retreat was a fantastic opportunity," Ms Jackson said. "Being able to meet so many awesome people who are really good at what they do was a real pleasure, and the workshops and talks inspired me to be so much more confident and sure of what I want to do.

"The uni students there showed a real mix of progress through their educations, too."

It is a remarkable achievement for Ms Jackson, who only became interested in computer programming when she was in Year 10.

It was during the year that

she learnt to program through an online course.

She now has her sights set on doing a double degree in maths and computer science at university, for which she will receive financial assistance from Google.

But she has no plans to rush into a career choice just yet.

"It took a while to bridge the gap from being able to write a program to sort numbers and being able to write a program that is useful. That was when I started to think seriously about doing this after school," she said.

"But I'm very lucky that the thing I'm interested in doesn't suffer from a shortage of jobs, so I don't need to worry too much just yet."



MLC School Burwood student Adele Jackson, of Hunters Hill, has won a Google Junior Anita Borg Scholarship.