

More information

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WA Students Compete with STEM Skills at ‘Robotics Olympics’

The annual Western Australian ‘RoboCup Junior State Event’ will descend on Curtin University Stadium on 3 and 4 August 2018.

Over 650 students from regional and metro schools will compete with robots they have designed, built and coded themselves, in the categories of OnStage Performance (dance and theatrical), Soccer and Rescue.

Over the past ten years, the WA ‘RoboCup Junior State Event’ has grown from humble beginnings into a major event involving over 50 schools. This incredible growth shows no sign of slowing down, going from 300 participants to over 600 participants in the last five years.

The event is organised by Scitech, who are WA event partners along with Rio Tinto and Western Australian University partner Curtin University. Further support is from platinum national sponsor Modern Teaching Aids Australia.

Ms Deb Hancock, Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, “Affectionately known as the “Robotic Olympics” for primary and secondary students, RoboCup Junior allows students to apply skills like coding, robotics, engineering, programming and maths in a fun yet competitive setting.

“With over 650 students from regional and metro schools set to compete again this year, we can’t wait to see the robots that will be designed, built and coded by our WA kids. We are very appreciative of the long-standing and ongoing support from RioTinto that facilitates this great event.”

Matthew Holcz, Rio Tinto Managing Director, Planning, Integration and Assets, said “Our support of RoboCup Junior WA is driven by our commitment to help develop a pipeline of STEM-literate (science, technology, engineering and maths) graduates, equipped with the skills necessary for the workforce of the future.

“This fun-filled event teaches young students the principles of automation and artificial intelligence. While a dancing robot may seem a world apart from our autonomous trains, trucks and drills, the coding skills required are just the same.”

Rio Tinto provides support for teams who show determination and innovation in robotics, with the RoboCup Travel Scholarship awarded to one school from the Pilbara to travel to the State Event in Perth. This year Port Hedland Primary School has been chosen in recognition of their amazing efforts. The Promise Award will fund one team from the State Event to attend the National competition in Melbourne later this year.

RoboCup Junior events occur at regional, state, national and international levels with a knock-out style structure and ultimate winners for each category. However to compete at any level, there are no qualifying rules other than enthusiasm, interest and ability to take part.