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## Scitech's Intensive Robotics Program in the Pilbara

Students from years K – 6 at Baynton West Primary School will graduate from Scitech's Intensive Robotics Program on Wednesday 4 December at a celebratory showcase event at the school.

This year-long program is made possible through Scitech's partnership with Mitsui Iron Ore Development and has delivered intensive robotics and technology workshops to one primary school in the Pilbara, every year since 2014.

The focus of the program is to upskill and empower teachers and ICT coordinators to continue to deliver technology-based lessons to their students once the program is completed.

The success of the Intensive Robotics Program contributed to the establishment of the Pilbara RoboCup Jnr competition in 2017, inspiring Wickham Primary School, a previous participant of the program, to host the event every June.

Hundreds of students across the region now spend months designing, building and programming their own robots for RoboCup Jnr, drawing from skills they developed through Scitech's guidance. Many teams also go on to compete at the state finals in Perth.

Kalien Selby, Chief Executive Officer Scitech, says "Scitech's Professional Learning Consultants provide excellent support to upskill educators to deliver contemporary lessons in line with the Digital Technologies curriculum. Scitech's approach to 'teach the teachers' creates a ripple effect, the result of which are engaged students and inspired communities."

"It is incredibly important to ensure students have the opportunity to learn and develop the digital technology skills needed to take on the opportunities of the future workforce, and we are extremely proud to be able to do so by delivering this successful program in collaboration with Mitsui Iron Ore Development."

This year, Baynton West Primary School was provided with a wide variety of educational robotics, from tiny line-following Ozobot robots that fit in the palm of your hand, to advanced LEGO robotics with motors, sensors and thousands of pieces.

They also received customisable electronics components and programmable elements such as micro:bit, Makey Makey and littleBits. Workshops began with basic construction challenges and collaborative activities, before progressing to designing and building robots, followed by programming robots to respond to sensors using a complex sequence of instructions.

Schools in the Pilbara region that have previously been involved in the program include Millars Wells Primary School, Pannawonica Primary School, Wickham Primary School, Karratha Primary School and Tambrey Primary School.