

More information

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WA Students Ready to Compete at Robotics Olympics

Over 420 secondary and primary students from across Western Australia will compete at the annual RoboCup Junior State Event on 13 and 14 November 2020.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and disruption to normal school activity, the event known as the 'Robotics Olympics' will go ahead, welcoming students to Curtin Stadium to compete under COVID-safe conditions.

Students and teachers have found a way to continue to tinker, build and test their robots in preparation for WA's longest running robotics competition, despite restrictions on extra-curricular activities.

38 Perth metro schools and four regional schools from the Bunbury and Pilbara region will be sending 124 teams. This year eight independent teams not attached to schools will also be competing, an increase in numbers from last year.

Students compete in one of the four challenges of OnStage Performance (dance and theatrical), Soccer, Rescue and Maze, which are designed to provide a realistic link between what students learn in the classroom and the real-world application of coding and robotics.

Kalien Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer said, "RoboCup Junior is a highlight of the year for hundreds of students, and this year is no exception, despite the challenges that COVID-19 has raised. It is a real testament to the resilience and determination of our school communities and independent teams that so many have found a way to be competition-ready."

"This fantastic event gives students the chance to work together towards a common goal. They learn to solve problems and build new skills while having fun being creative with robots and tech. We are proud to be able to offer this amazing opportunity with the support of our long-standing partner Rio Tinto."

Brendon Brodie-Hall, Rio Tinto General Manager Dampier Salt said, "The challenges of COVID-19 has demonstrated that we need to prepare for a high-tech future. RoboCup Junior is a great platform for young people to build their skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)."

"One of our very own graduates Claudia Haugg, competed in the annual challenge as a 12-year-old and went on to study at university to become a mining software engineer. We are proud to support RoboCup Junior WA and encourage our young people to develop the skills required for a technological workforce."

Rio Tinto provide two special awards for teams who show determination and innovation in robotics. The RoboCup Travel Scholarship has been awarded to Nullagine Primary School to fund travel from the Pilbara to Perth. At the competition, the Promise Award will go to an outstanding team to encourage the continuation of their robotics journey.

In 2019, over 600 students made up 183 teams across 60 competing schools. Of this, 239 were girls, and 19 teams were from regional schools in the South West, Peel, Wheatbelt and Pilbara regions.

The event is presented by Scitech in partnership with Rio Tinto, with additional support from the RoboCup Junior WA Committee and Platinum National Sponsor, Modern Teaching Aids.