THE WAY

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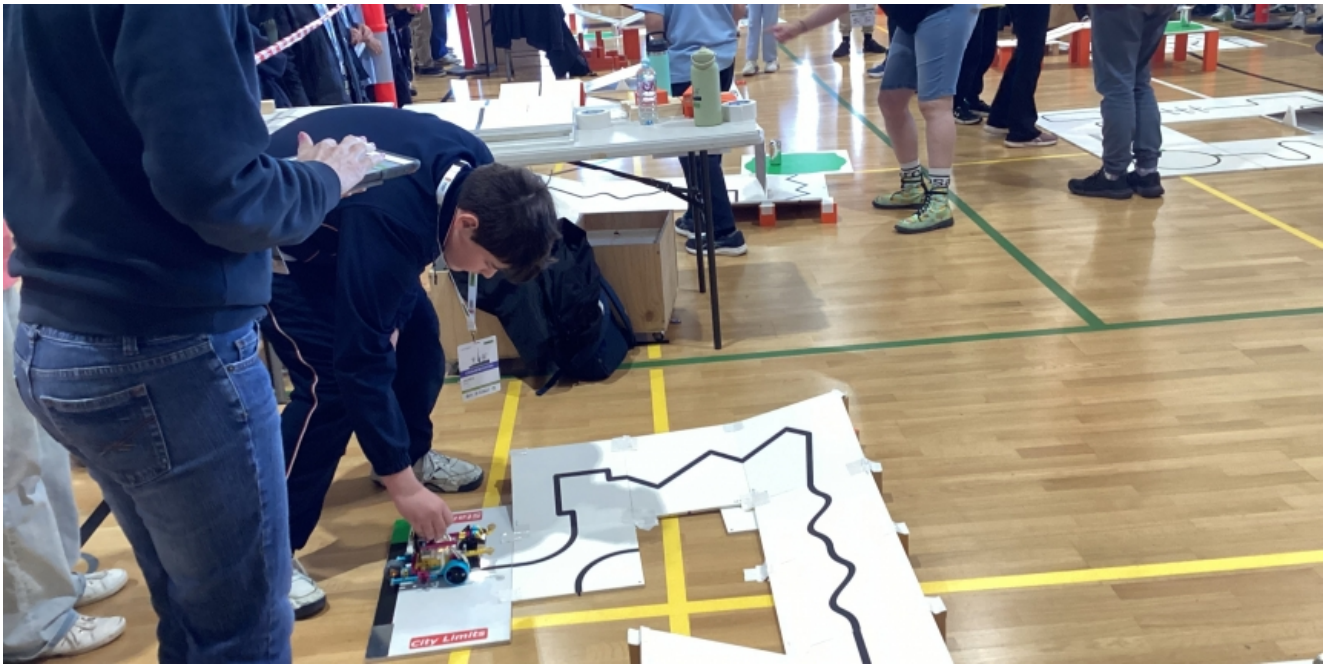

ROBOCUP JUNIOR NATIONALS

During the school holidays, our robotics students travelled to Canberra for the RoboCup Junior Australian National Championships, joining teams from across Australia. Our College teams competed in the Line Rescue Challenge, one of several challenges at the competition, alongside Soccer, Maze and OnStage. All robots must operate autonomously, meaning they are programmed to complete their tasks without human control.

Our students had a fantastic weekend filled with challenges, new friendships and plenty of memorable moments. While we didn't finish in the top ten, there was much to celebrate. One of the great things about RoboCup is that students must do all the work themselves during the competition, without help from teachers, coaches or parents. There were times when the robots simply refused to cooperate, but our students kept testing, adjusting and trying again!

Hannah described Nationals as "an INCREDIBLE experience. I personally learned so much from my peers and other competitors." After some frustrating challenges with her robot, she learnt to "take a breath, analyse my code, and ask for help from my peers." Her persistence paid off when her robot completed an entire course without an error or restart!

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Brian's team also had their share of challenges with their robot. As Brian reflected, "This weekend taught me that teamwork means trusting your teammates, staying positive when things go wrong, and working together under pressure." His team was proud that they never gave up.

There was also plenty of fun between competition rounds, with students making new friends and sharing ideas with competitors from other schools. Ryan particularly enjoyed "seeing how I could improve and make it work better," while James summed it up well: "It's not just the fun moments, it's about your learning experience. This is why I love RoboCup."

We couldn't be prouder of our students and the way they represented the College. They may not have brought home a trophy, but they certainly came home with plenty of stories, new skills and ideas for next time!

A big thank you to the parents who travelled to Canberra to cheer on our students, and a special thank you to Mrs L for her wonderful care, encouragement and support throughout the weekend. We really appreciated having you there!

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Well done to all our RoboCup students!

Mrs Karen Binns
Learning Enrichment Innovation

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