

Robot team on top of the world



Just back from the RoboCup world championships are high school students, front from left, Josephine Michalek and Yaya Lu; from left back, Mia Wisniewski, Saranya Costa, Isobel Jones, Owen Holloway, Devika Remash and Elizabeth Bowler.

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A TEAM of Hobart high school students blitzed the competition at the RoboCup world championships in Singapore.

Six months of after-school and weekend work designing and programming paid off for the nine students from Ogilvie High, the Friends School and Sacred Heart College -- with three world championship titles to their credit.

Calling themselves RoboSquad United, the team designed, built and programmed seven dancing robots, their costumes and a stage set and packed the whole delicate performance for travel halfway across the world.

Team member Mia Wisniewski said the team took the finals with the only perfect routine their robots managed during the competition.

"On our first two runs some things didn't quite work, but in the final run it was the only time I've ever seen it perfect," she said.

"We all just screamed when we found out ... we brought the whole building down. We still can't believe that we won."

Coach Susan Bowler said the students had managed a stellar improvement in their performance over the previous world championships in Austria.

"We were shocked. I thought they were going to come in fourth or third, the competition was amazing," she said.

"We came back from last year being absolutely dead last in our division and said we're going to do it right this year."

The RoboCup is run by the international scientific community to promote education, research and development in the fields of artificial intelligence and robotics and included around 4000 participants from 40 countries.

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/07/04/156605_tasmania-news.html

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