



I learned that being part of a robotics team meant being able to cope with things not going according to plan (as we found out on competition day) and being able to bounce back and re-strategise.

- By Chiara

I really enjoyed meeting other teams and learning new things!

Also, there was an Innovation faire in our building where they had technology like Virtual reality and cool robots made to perform certain tasks. The coolest part of the innovation faire for me was "Dragon's Breath"- you chew crackers dunked into the liquid nitrogen and you can see your breath.



- By Dennis



The chance to go to this event and meet so many creative kids who share their love for science and technology, was amazing. I was very proud to represent Australia, see numerous teams and obviously, have fun!

- By Danil

I also learnt many teamwork skills and problem solving skills. I loved going to everyone's booth and learning about their projects and their culture.

- By Ashwin

It is very hard for me to decide on JUST ONE favourite out of all the fun, bright experiences that I had. One of my favourites was peeking into the FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition (A competition for older kids with more interesting and heavy robots). I also liked how we traded badges and local goods and of course the Glendal iBots "shop"!



- By Joel



The iBots – Glendal Primary School Robotics

Our school robotics team 'iBots' proudly represented Australia at the World Festival in Houston, Texas, on 19th April – 22nd April.

There were 108 teams representing different countries from around the world.

We arrived on Wednesday 19th to register and set up our Australiana booth. Flags, banners depicting Australian animals and landmarks, Aboriginal backdrop, posters showing our Project research and Technical knowledge were displayed around the booth for all to see.

Everything was abuzz – teams getting to know each other, swapping badges and pins, team chants echoing throughout the hall, tasting of various foods, colourful costumes and team uniforms, beaming faces everywhere.

The next day was the project, technical and Core Values competition.

All teams had to do these back to back, within 90 minutes. I Bots were so excited to share their learning and creative skill in presentation. They were high in energy and enthusiasm and bounced off each other so well. The judges were very impressed.

After lunch, the students had the opportunity to practise on the board for three rounds, simulating the actual competition and receiving scores for their performances. These scores did not count for the competition results, but they gave our team a chance to modify any mechanical or programming problems along the way. Our robot did not perform as well as it could, which was disappointing, but I Bots were always positive, thinking creatively to solve the various problems that confronted them.

That night, there was a wonderful Welcome Party – games, all types of food to purchase, surround music and laughter and fun all around.

Our Robot Performance competition was held the next day. We were so excited and crossed our fingers that everything went well.

In between the three rounds, there were opportunities to use a practice board to solve our problems.

Everything worked so well on the practice board, but when we competed on the competition board, things went wrong. Each round we achieved more missions and the team were excited by this, but we still could not complete all the aspects of the board to our usual standard. Our target score seemed to evade us. The team supported each other and kept positive all the way, showing much Gracious Professionalism and friendly competition, in the First Lego League fashion.

Judges visited the team booths to chat to the teams about their Project and Core Values for a second assessment. I Bots had to be confident to talk to different people at any time either on their own or with a team-mate.

Saturday was the Celebration Day. Selected teams presented their Project or Robot Performance to the audience. The award ceremony was so exciting to watch. Everyone lined up and were presented with a competition medal, then hi-fived everyone and danced to the music of the moment.

This competition was an experience of a lifetime! A memory forever.

Chris Gilligan

