Lego exhibition builds on Project Bucephalus

By AGRON LATIFI

Lego robotics is striking a chord with more and more people thanks to the ongoing success of a group of inventive Illawarra children.

An exhibition of Lego robots made by Project Bucephalus held at Westfield Figtree last week attracted a healthy number of people keen to learn and practice how to build a Lego robot.

Project Bucephalus is a Wollongong-based FIRST Lego League (FLL) team made up of local home-schooled children aged 10-16.

Named after Alexander the Great’s warhorse, the team create Lego robots which complete various tasks through computerised instructions and sensors.

Last month Project Bucephalus placed second at the Australian National FIRST Lego League (FLL) tournament, earning the right to represent Australia at an international level for the second year in a row.

This followed the team’s win at the nationals in 2010, which led to Project Bucephalus representing Australia at the FLL Open European Championship in the Netherlands.

The team’s latest success will see it compete in the US in April.

Head coach Andrew Clark said it was good to see three Wollongong teams take part in the national championships at Macquarie University on December 3.

CULAR from Cudgewa Christian College and Deception from Corrimal High School joined Project Bucephalus at the event, with Cedars beating every other robot in Australia to be awarded the highly coveted National Robot Performance trophy.

“This was an exceptional result for a rookie team,” Clark said.

“In 2010 Project Bucephalus was the only Wollongong FLL team. In 2011 there were five. These extra teams were created and mentored to varying degrees by our members.

“In fact three of our members, Oliver Boswell, Rosemary Boswell and Peter Monk, were named joint holders of the FLL Young Mentor of the Year Award.

Project Bucephalus will soon run workshops at UOW.

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