

## SmartBots - Semester 2, 2008

SmartBots is an online robotics extension program for students in grades 5-8. Working in small teams, students use LEGO MINDSTORMS robotics kits and accompanying software to work through a series of skill building activities and challenges, guided by an online delivery teacher.

An adult team mentor (e.g. teacher, teacher assistant, parent, or friend) in each participating school provides support, encouragement and trouble shooting for participating students. The team mentors will also develop understandings and skills in relation to robotics in order to build sustainability of the program.

A full-day workshop for team mentors will be held around the state during early-mid August. This workshop provides an opportunity to become familiar with the kits, software, and course materials that the students use in the program.

SmartBots Semester 2 will start on Mon 18 August and finish on Fri 21 November.

A maximum of eight students per school may be enrolled (ideally as two teams of 2-3 students with a possible reserve).

Acceptance of enrolments for Semester 2 will depend on available resources, with the priority going to rural / remote schools, and schools new to robotics.

It is beneficial, but not necessary, for schools to have their own robotics equipment. Thanks to the support of LEGO Education, robotics kits will be loaned to eligible schools. At the end of the program, loan kits may either be purchased or returned.

NOTE: Students that were enrolled in SmartBots in Semester 1 (the first half of 2008) **will not** automatically be enrolled in Semester 2. Many of the challenges in Semester 2 will be the same as in Semester 1, so it will cater more for newcomers than for students who have participated previously. In some cases, of course, it may be beneficial to have students participate a second time.

The online enrolment form can be found at:

<https://wwwsecure.education.tas.gov.au/school/educators/student-support/extended-learning-opportunities/onlineprograms>

The enrolment process is completed by the school sending one signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, which may be downloaded from the online enrolment page, to CELO. This may be faxed to 62337199, or mailed to CELO, 32 Bayfield St, Rosny Park, 7018. Only one MoU is required from a school per year. Enrolments will not be confirmed until the memorandum is received. Notice of successful enrolment and information sessions will be sent out upon completion of the enrolment process.

Completion of the enrolment process does not guarantee places in the program as this depends on the number of enrolments. Schools will be advised of the success of their enrolment.