

## Being a LakeBot

By Cecilia Peredes

When I first heard about VEX Robotics in a school assembly, my first thought was: “Wow, that’s interesting and fun”, but doubts set in “probably too hard for me, and bets are they only take smart nerdy people”. Was I wrong! Now I know *VEX* Robotics is not just academic building and driving – there’s behind-the-scenes action and endless help the presentation didn’t show.

The real truth is, ‘Robotics **was** for smart people’, now it’s the *Lego* for big kids, the modern *Meccano* and more. Our *VEX* Robotics members show various talents and interests, as each can find niches where they perfectly fit. It’s not just “be the team player”, we have fun. We try eccentric design to edge out the competition, struggle and celebrate when it finally works our way. Fundraising is a social event. So, even though you may start with one interest, everyone gets ‘hands-on’ experience in many aspects of our teamwork.

Robotics touches everything to change our way of thinking and help us discover a universe outside the square. It has broken the stereotype ‘boys only mechanics’, or “only smart people, good at physics and mathematics, are the design team” because different people from many life’s experiences (including biologists and artists) are equally the best people of our team. So..., who would have thought a girl will notice the toilet holder is bolted in with nylock nuts?

I’m average-Jo proud to say robotics is fantastic, and I’m stoked to be part of the team.