

# **Girl Powered**

## **Our team 70591A**

Our team consists of equal numbers of girls and boys which is quite nice. We remember thinking this was typical but after going to a few scrimmages we realized there were not really many other girls and we found that was quite interesting, but we did not know why. In this male-dominated activity, as girls, we did not know what to expect but found the competition to be inclusive, rewarding and enjoyable.

## **Jasmyn**

I joined our school's robotics club for the first time in April 2018 with some of my classmates including Saskia, Dylan and Cody who are all still doing robotics with me. I had never done anything like this before but was very excited and interested to get involved. When Angus our team captain announced the beginning of a robotics team, I jumped at the opportunity to join in. Since then I have been attending get-togethers every Wednesday after school and scrimmages every weekend I could. I remember getting picked up and was super nervous going to my first scrimmage as I had no idea what would be happening, but I was soon educated on how scrimmages run. Now after attending for a year I have learned the basics of programming and how to build and drive our robot, these are things our school does not teach at our level. I have a lot to learn but our teams communicate well, and we are learning a lot from each other and our mentor. I really enjoy robotics and look forward to continuing next season. My experiences with our team has got me started thinking about my future and if I'd like to do something like this for a job one day.

## **Saskia**

I joined robotics in April 2018 with some of my friends including Jasmyn. Angus, who had competed last year encouraged us to sign up and I saw it as an opportunity to try something I had never done before. Together our teams decided that Wednesday was the best day to meet after school and I have attended as many meetings and scrimmages as often as I could. Our team is made up of equal numbers of girls and boys and we have had great communication since we started. There were times when we girls would get frustrated, but we learned to talk about our ideas one at a time as a team and listen to each other. The more time I spent talking and problem-solving the more I learned and soon understood how to design, build and program a basic robot. I learned that in many ways design is the most important part of the process. There are many parts that I had not thought of until we began to build, and flaws often did not present until we started programming and driving for the first time. We failed and made mistakes all the time but that is how we achieved both a working robot and our strategy for competitions. Over time we naturally fell into different roles, slowly the builders, designers, programmers and drivers became clear and things started to run more smoothly. However, the times that things did not go our way were the times we learned the most. I have really loved my first year of robotics and I am looking forward to 2019.