

Project Bucephalus: A Year of Triumphs & Community Impact

As we step into 2024, Triple i takes great pride in reflecting on the remarkable accomplishments of Project Bucephalus, a robotics group we sponsor, underscoring our dedication to community engagement and STEM education. Project Bucephalus, affiliated with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), forms a collective of bright young minds leaving a significant impact not only in the Illawarra South Coast region but also on a global scale.

Triple i is honoured to be a proud sponsor of Project Bucephalus, a group consisting of individuals aged 12-18 from nineteen high schools spanning from Ulladulla to Southern Highlands. Notably, 52% of the group's membership identifies as non-male, with over 50% holding leadership positions. Moreover, 64% of these students face diagnosed mental health challenges, representing a diverse cross-section of the community with varied socio-economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. At Triple i., we believe it is crucial to contribute to the local community, ensuring that STEM education is sustained for the next generation of innovators and leaders.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, being an integrated approach to education that emphasizes hands-on learning in these four key disciplines. STEM education cultivates critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills to prepare individuals for the challenges of the modern world. As a sponsor of Project Bucephalus, Triple i is committed to supporting STEM initiatives, recognising their pivotal role in shaping the future and empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators.

FIRST, an international organisation with a mission to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, provides a platform for students to take part in robotics competitions, fostering innovation, teamwork, and community impact. Project Bucephalus, through its affiliation with FIRST, has not only excelled in competitions but has also proved a commitment to making a positive and lasting impact on the community.

In the spotlight of Project Bucephalus's accomplishments, the FIRST LEGO League team achieved the esteemed title of 2nd Place Champions at the Eastern National Championships, earning the opportunity to represent Australia at the Asia-Pacific Championships in 2024. Meanwhile, Team 5985 excelled in the FIRST Robotics Competition, receiving the Impact Award at the Silicon Valley Regional, the highest honour in FIRST, and being recognised as an Impact Award Finalists at the World Championships, placing them among the top six teams globally for STEM education and outreach.

However, Project Bucephalus's focus extends beyond competition victories. Over the past year, the team has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to mentorship, service, and outreach. Initiatives include mentoring over twenty FIRST teams nationally and internationally, introducing the Unified Robotics program to Australia in partnership with Special Olympics Australia and Washington, and organising the first Unified Championship at Wollongong TAFE.

Notably, Project Bucephalus has embraced a comprehensive approach to community impact, integrating FIRST Tech Challenge teams into Special Education Units, orchestrating regional events, and fostering programs such as FIRST Scouts and Unstoppable—a program tailored for students coming from backgrounds of trauma, abuse, and neglect. The team's commitment also extends to vocational training for adults and youth with disabilities.

Looking forward to the upcoming FRC season, titled "Crescendo," Project Bucephalus, with its forty-four students, is poised for another year of success. The team's emphasis on diversity, inclusivity, and dedication to continuous learning and growth underscores its role as a beacon for the next generation of STEM leaders. Triple i stays committed to supporting such impactful initiatives, ensuring the legacy of STEM education thrives in communities and continues to inspire future innovators and leaders.

Project Bucephalus transcends being just a robotics team; it catalyses positive change in the community. We invite you to delve into their comprehensive 2023-year review, chronicling their achievements and the profound positive impact they have made. You can read the full review [here](#).

Join us, as proud sponsors, in celebrating the accomplishments of Project Bucephalus. We eagerly anticipate an even brighter future for STEM education and community engagement, guided by the relentless passion and innovation of these young minds.

For more information on Project Bucephalus, please visit their website at www.projectb.net.au.