



Steve the robot is being built by Marsden High School students John Lau, Nikhil Deka, School Principal Gus Vrolyk, Tony Lochaingsai, Kyle Glynn, Quentin Yip, Kelvin Liu and Design Technology teacher Dean Hannah. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

Students build a World Cup robot

Aspiring scientists at Marsden High School are building a World Cup robot that is being programmed to be a goal scoring machine.

The robot named 'Steve' will take part in a robotic World Cup to be played at Barker College Duel Down Under tournament as part of the international 'First Robotics' competition.

Steve has taken students more than 50 hours to build and will use a pre-programmed command, not a hand held guidance system.

School Principal Gus Vrolyk said it was assembled in kit form from imported parts and the students challenge was to assemble the parts through their knowledge of computer technology.

"The game changes every year and students are not permitted to use any robot part they built prior to this year's game rules being released," he said.

"To make things more interesting, the tournament gives students just six weeks to brainstorm, design, prototype, build, program and teach the robot to score a goal."

The tournament is played on an eight by sixteen metre field against other two metre high robots.

"Robots are also challenged to work together to score goals, play defence and fend off defenders," he said.

Marsfield High School's Design Technology teacher Dean Hannah said the school team have worked hard after school each Wednesday.

"Steve has been programmed to move the ball into the goal using hydraulics which is quite a feat," he said.

"But more importantly, the most important lesson we learn is how to work together as part of a team and that means that we have chosen students who are good team players, rather than skilled individuals."

"We are also challenged to respond to problems as they arise and we have to program a game strategy, which is really quite hard."

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Parking meters set to pocket your money in Hunters Hill!

Despite community opposition, Hunters Hill Council has revealed a proposal for paid parking at the Gladesville Shopping Village Carpark and the Signal Hill carpark.

The proposal is to be reviewed by the Gladesville Main Street Committee later this month and the new paid parking could begin shortly after the review.

Under the proposal the first three hours parking will be free although long stay parking could incur costs of up to \$10 per day.

The council is also seeking approval from the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority for parking metres to be operational at Clarke's Point and Buffalo Creek Reserve on weekends and public holidays.

The parking metres have the support of councillors with the exception of Cllr Zac Miles and will charge three dollars an hour with a maximum stay of five hours.

Unlike other councils which have parking meters, Hunters Hill residents will be issued with free parking permits and visitors will be permitted free parking for the first two hours.

The council will also investigate the use of parking meters at Franki Avenue, Woolwich; the Valencia Street Wharf and Huntley's Point Wharf.

The introduction of parking meters had been proposed and scrapped years ago after community opposition reported by The Weekly Times, particularly at the wharves where ferry passengers park to attend jobs in the CBD.

Since previous plans were scrapped, Hunters Hill Council has seen an increased demand for available parking spaces and budget problems due to a decrease in State Government revenue.

The council has three rangers who would be expected to have their working hours amended to enforce the meter parking.

Your Chamber Meets

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