Team shows 'No Mercy'

Mackay students win their division at the RoboCup junior titles

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USUALLY when Mackay schoolchildren head to Brisbane and win a state title, it's in the fields of some variety of football. And Mercy Catholic College Year 9 student Liam Stevens, Alex Yan Lint and Eddie Carroll have done exactly that, just not in football as you know it.

The intutive bunch designed, built, fixed, tweaked and won their 90-team division at the RoboCup Junior Queensland Championships at The University of Queensland. Robotics teacher at Mercy Brendan Gunning said he was proud of all the students' efforts. "We sent eight students and two staff down," he said. "The guys built and programmed their robots prior to competing in the soccer-style game against the other schools." Mr Gunning said the students reacted well under the pressure of competition.

"We had some issues with getting there on time," he said. "They had to do a lot of problem solving and fault finding. Things go wrong and are unpredictable, but the guys did very well." The school's senior team, also named No Mercy, won the Gen II soccer comp and will return to UQ in September to compete for the national title.

"Results aside, the students get a lot from the weekend," Mr Gunning said. It was Mercy's third time at the competition, with their robotics class having run for seven years. "It's a very hands-on subject," Mr Gunning said.

"Students learn technology, programming, design, problem solving and how to work as a team."