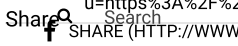
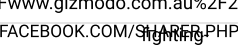


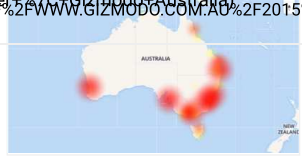



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# Competitive Robot Fighting Downunder


 lindsay handmer (<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/author/lindsay-handmer>)  
 Dec 28, 2015, 10:00pm · Filed to: [Australian Stories](https://www.gizmodo.com.au/tags/au)

Not many people realise that Australia actually has a small but active group of robot warriors. From small events in a local shed to national events, building, testing and tweaking a robot to perfection, only to have its electronic guts ripped out (http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2015/02/japan-is-holding-actual-funerals-for-sonys-robotic-aibo-dogs/). In fact, based on (http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2015/02/man-pretending-to-be-a-robot-looks-like-a-robot-pretending-to-be-a-man/) are one in a million. (http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2014/12/watch-22-of-the-dumbest-robots-youve-ever-seen-try-to-fight/) is a fun hobby rather than a profession. Robots range from hacked together monsters that use salvaged parts to gleaming (http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2014/12/watch-this-robot-is-in-the-featherweight-category, where robots tip the scales at a manageable 13.6 KG (in line with international standard weights). The robots are built with proof glass. Even a reinforced roof is needed as robots are often launched high into the air. Armament choices vary from flippers to flame throwers but the real crowd pleasers are the kinetic energy weapons. The basic idea is to drive your robot into your competition and watch the sparks fly. There is actually enough energy involved to rip another robot apart, though you also subject your own robot to massive stress. Of course, you have gone for an all or nothing approach, forgoing defense in favour of a more powerful offense in the hope they can take out the other robot. In Australia the last national competition (http://www.ipswichartgallery.qld.gov.au/robowars-2014/) was held in 2014 over a weekend and the eventual winner was a tough armoured brick of a robot called M3ntalbot which survived even the most powerful spinning weapons. A match earlier in the event had a showdown between two spinner bots, with quite violent results. Check out the video below – the two robots are shown in action. Watch the rest of the battle videos (https://www.youtube.com/user/TheMjRobots/videos).

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## So what does it take to build a combat robot in Australia?

We had a chat to one of the most prolific and high tech builders in Australia, Nick Martin. Not only does Nick like to build from exotic n to have rotten luck against the less polished but amazingly tough local competition, Nick has competed and picked up trophies at inter

To delve further into the mind of a dedicated robot builder, we put Nick on the spot with some questions about the sport and his robot at the Robowars forums.



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**How did you get into combat robotics?** Completely by accident! I bought a robot from a friend who had a competitive robot. My first robot was Jolt, which used the most powerful other robots.

**What is your latest robot?** It's actually a reboot of Jolt in the heavier lightweight (27Kg) class. The weapon weighs 5.5 Kg, spins at seventy five large electric jack hammers all at once.

**You favourite tool in your workshop?** My brain! Without some clever design ideas all the other tools are useless. More practical

**What do you see as the future of robotwars locally?** At the moment, combat bots in Australia are suffering from a lack of venues, branches of engineering and teamed up with us.

**What is your advice for interested roboteers looking to get into the sport?** You don't need a lot of skills or tools to get started;

Later in 2015 Nick will be heading overseas to compete in the the Robogames (<http://robogames.net/index.php>) in San Francisco (<http://www.robogames.net/index.php>) on a flight and competing at the UK Robot World Championship (<http://www.robotevents.com/the-vex-robotics-uk-national-championship>) all round the world - but only one Aussie. Later in the year Nick plans to take on the local national competition with an entirely new robot.

You can watch Nick and Mr Mangle dominate the UK 2014 Championships below in an epic four way fight.

The last Australian National robotwars event was in October (The RoboWars 2015 Nationals) and once again at the Ipswich Art gallery. (



Facing off against powerful competition as a new builder with a fresh robot can be daunting, so there are also plans to have a 'sportsman' those who want to know more about the building, one dedicated roboteer has even put together a How To YouTube series (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...>)

Otherwise, the Australian Robotwars website (<http://robowars.org/>) and forum (<http://http://robowars.org/forum/>) have all the info

[Robowars (<http://robowars.org/>)]


A big thank you to Nick and all the other roboteers who supplied pictures for the article.




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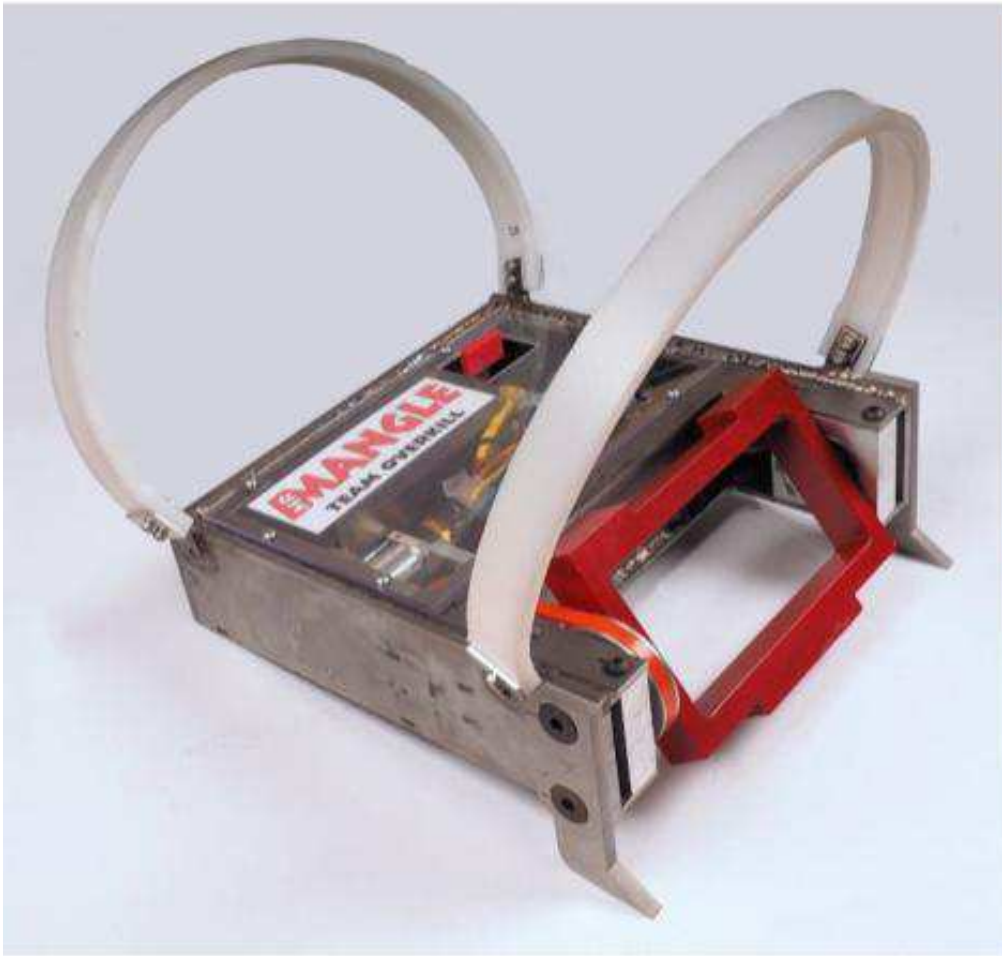
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### Amazon Prime Is Finally In Australia: Here's What You'll Get (<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/06/amazon>)

Rae Johnston (/author/rae-johnston/) 19 Jun 2018 8:30 AM

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Tegan Jones (/author/tegan-jones/) 19 Jun 2018 1:00 PM

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