This year's RACV Energy Breakthrough saw some outstanding competition and some excellent vehicles. All events ran extremely smoothly, a new record was set for the number of laps completed in the secondary HPV 24 hour trial by Bendigo SSC and the weather was kind to us. We even had the film crew from Coxies Big Break with us during the event capturing all the energy and enthusiasm of teams and their supporters.

This year we had teams from South Australia, Tasmania, NSW and Queensland as well as all parts of Victoria. New interstate travellers included Westmister College (SA), The King’s School (NSW) and Coombabah SHS (Qld.). We continue to have regular visits from other interstate teams like Willyama HS, Rosny College, Unity College and Seymour College (SA) to name but a few.

During 2005 we were very fortunate to have a number of new sponsors join the Energy Breakthrough.

Powercor joined us this year sponsoring the highly popular Try-athlon event. The Powercor Try-athlon was an outstanding success this year with teams in the Primary, B/C and Open classes. Mr Ray Rhodes from Powercor was on hand to make the presentations on Saturday night. Moorooduc PS “Torque It Up” won the Primary class, Beaconsfield Upper PS “Eye of the Storm” won the Open class and the girls from Toorak College “Golden Girls” won the B/C class.

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) rejoined the Breakthrough as sponsors this year. The SAE have a special interest in the Hybrid category as this event prepares young people for the Formula SAE which is conducted for University and TAFE students each year in December.

KFC assisted the RACV Energy Breakthrough this year by sponsoring the new walkway on the HOLDEN track. This is another major development of the site and we are grateful to KFC for their support.

Bendigo IT joined us this year and has assisted the Energy Breakthrough with the redevelopment of our website. The team from Bendigo IT has worked with Nigel Preston (Online Manager) to revamp the site and keep it up to date. Feedback from schools and a record of those accessing the site indicates that the website has become very popular and is used extensively. In the week after the RACV Energy Breakthrough there were over 4,000 hits.

During the year the Maryborough and ‘Breakthrough’ community was saddened by the death of our good friend and supporter of the event Mr Bruce Reiffel. Bruce got involved in the Energy Breakthrough right from the start in 1991. He was a tireless worker, always helping young people to build better vehicles, prepare themselves for the event and was always willing to help the smaller schools. He understood education and he understood the ‘Breakthrough’. In recognition of Bruce’s love of the event and his support we have named the HPV A Section 1 Award the “Bruce Reiffel Award”.

We are now well underway with planning for the 2006 RACV Energy Breakthrough. Thank you to those who completed the on-line feedback forms this helps us in our planning. We do note the feedback on toilets and showers and will do what we can...
can to improve these facilities for next year. People should be aware that we have most of the large portable toilets and showers that are available at this time of year.

Finally we should thank all the volunteers involved in helping make this event successful. There are over 600 volunteers involved in judging, marshalling and organising the event. We also know that at the school and community level there are many, many voluntary hours put in, including those by parents and staff. We thank everyone for their support and helping to shape this great education event.

Human Powered Vehicles (HPV)
The quality and standard of vehicle presented at the RACV Energy Breakthrough continues to improve. More teams now have well constructed and reliable vehicles. The young people who make up the teams continue to amaze us all with their detailed knowledge and understanding of their vehicles.

The overall winner in the HPV Open category was “Bukkamalazir” from Bendigo SSC. They completed a record 651 laps (708 kilometres) and the Damascus College team won the Design and Construction section. The all girls team from St Margaret’s School performed exceptionally completing 467 laps and finishing fifth overall in the HPV C category.

In the HPV C category the competition was extremely tight with Highview College “Perfect Insanity” winning overall just ahead of “Daryl” from Damascus College. The Highview team completed 529 laps (708 kilometres) and the Damascus College team won the Design and Construction section. The all girls team from St Margaret’s School performed exceptionally completing 467 laps and finishing fifth overall in the HPV C category.

In HPV B category Flora Hill SC “Beekeaf Production” were the overall winners with “Fill” from Weeroona College finishing runner-up. The team from Maryborough RC “Briefaffair” won the trial section completing 593 laps (794 kilometres). The other outstanding performance in the HPV B category was Ovens College “Black Widow” which won both the Display and Presentation and the Design and Construction sections.

This year the HPV A category was divided into two sections for the first time. Section 1 was for schools with an enrolment of 200 or less students and section 2 for schools with an enrolment over 200 students. The overall winner in Section 1 and winner of the “Bruce Reiffel Award” was Weeroona College “Bee Bee”. The runner-up and winner of the trail section completing 346 laps (366 kilometres) was “Cyclone” from Maryborough East PS.

In section 2 of the HPV A category again the competition was extremely tight and the overall winner was “Pursuit” from Tyabb PS very narrowly defeating “Mosquito Fleet” from Derinya PS. Line honours in this category went to “Eco Racer” from St Therese’s PS completing 364 laps (385 kilometres) in the 14 hour trial section. Derinya PS performed exceptionally well with three teams finishing in the top ten of the category and a special mention to Diamond Creek schools who had two teams finish in the top ten after only three years participating at the Breakthrough.

Hybrid Vehicles
This year saw a record number of entries in the Hybrid category which is very pleasing. Since 1991 we have worked hard to increase the number Hybrid teams and it is great to see more schools competing in this category. The overall winner of the Hybrid B/C category was “The General” from Seymour THS. The Seymour THS teams again competed exceptionally well finishing second and third overall in this category. The girls from Master Christi also performed exceptionally well coming in fourth overall and completing 516 laps (547 kilometres) in only their second year at Maryborough.

The overall winner of Hybrid Open was “eMax” from Weeroona College. They completed 634 laps (672 kilometres) and won the Design and Construction section. The overall runner-up was Trinity College “Spark Monkeys” and overall third was “Flame Monkeys” also from Trinity College.

In Hybrid 2 the overall winner was “Pj2” from Weeroona College completing 648 laps (686 kilometres) and also winning the Display and Presentation section. Overall second, in only their second year at Maryborough, was “Stawell Speedster” from Stawell SC.
The 2005 RACV Energy Breakthrough was a huge success for the local community of Maryborough and the Central Goldfields Shire.

With favourable weather conditions for the riders, the event had the best competition conditions for the last ten years. The RACV provided their professional expertise, support, and management to ensure the Scrutineering, Design & Construction, and Race Management was once again of the highest quality. New innovations into the scrutineering tent were experienced by all HPV, Tryathlon, and Hybrid teams as well, and this all assisted with ensuring that our highest priority, safety, remained paramount at the event.

Once again campers were met by our friendly Car Parking Attendants from Tracy The Placement People, and a smooth transition into the appropriate parking areas was achieved. The Maryborough Anglican Church Hall grounds, in close proximity to Park Road Car Park, were opened up this year as well, and this relieved a lot of the pressure in parking for people camping on the Princes Park Oval.

The inclusion of the KFC pedestrian bridge on the Holden Track improved pedestrian movement in the HPVA, Tryathlon, and Hybrid events, and we at the RACV Energy Breakthrough are thankful to KFC Maryborough for their sponsorship support in 2005.

Powercor Australia also came on board this year, as sponsor of the Powercor Tryathlon, and their involvement in the event this year was fantastic, with company representative Ray Rhodes presenting the winning prizes to our excelling tryathlon teams on Saturday night.

The Sustainable Energy BreakFest was a huge success as well in 2005. The Sustainable Energy Information Partnership became the name sponsor of this aspect of the event as well, and lifted the profile of the event in 2005. The 2006 Sustainable Energy BreakFest will be bigger and better again.

Many thanks must also go to the Society of Automotive Engineers for their sponsorship support of these newsletters, ANZ for the School’s Handbooks, Central Highlands Water for the Innovations in Technology, and Bendigo IT for the website. To the many other major and local sponsors of the RACV Energy Breakthrough, the Local Planning Committee expresses its most sincere thanks for their on-going and vital support of this fantastic youth event.

The newly renovated Maryborough Outdoor Pool was also of great benefit to all the participants in the event, and the Central Goldfields Shire Council is proud of its Heritage Listed aquatic facility.

Let the energy be yours and I’ll see you all again in 2006,

Martin Mark
RACV Energy Breakthrough
Local Planning Coordinator
In perfect weather, students, teachers and judges enjoyed Innovations 2005 on Saturday 26 November. I hope to see you all again next year. Tell your friends at other schools to come along and if you are going to a Secondary school talk them into entering in 2006 – lead the way and show them how it’s done!

A quote from an email sent by teacher Megan Vella (of first time entry Hillsmeade PS): We had a great time. The kids loved it, our RACV weekend was FANTASTIC. We were elated & exhausted …

MOVING WATER

A small number of entries presented for Moving Water this year; each model successfully completed the performance test and addressed the water catchment theme.

Overall winner was Team 34 Tyabb PS entry Clear Water which gained 75 points. This team of grade 5 children gave a very good presentation (Charlie’s Angels) with a simple, yet effective mountain model with a recycled water/sediment pond concept to recycle pond water for irrigation of plants; water pump was driven by wind generators in real-life situation.

Tyabb PS entry Mt Wonnakville was runner-up with 74 points. This model pumped water over the mountain into a protected water wheel which powered conveyor belt run off into a filtration system, to water cocoa plants which recycles the water run-off to repeat the process.

‘... a great time.
The kids loved it, our RACV weekend was FANTASTIC.
We were elated & exhausted …’

An Encouragement Award went to St Augustine’s Little Monsters entry; a grade 5 and 6 presentation. Little Monsters was complete with irrigation sprinkler, reservoir on top of the mountain for rain and overflow catchment, with anti-evaporation device, run off to greenhouse with a dam catchment underneath.

CRAFTY DESIGN

Overall winner in Crafty Design was Team 17 Maryborough PS 404 accruing 95 points with Sopping Wet Water Spiders. This craft resembled a red and black spider with sail; materials used were corflute and foam construction with balsa.

Runner-up was Team 13 Maryborough PS 404 Mighty Mayflies with 91 points. Judges described Mighty Mayflies ‘orange corflute/polystyrene, powered by solar panels and carb soda/vinegar chemical reaction. Can [was] secured inside the structure.’

The Bairnsdale PS team with their entry Water Scorpion best portrayed the theme of macro invertebrates in presentation as well as in the form of their craft and received the Waterwatch Award. It was described by judges as ‘Brilliant!’.

Best presentation to judges was awarded to Tyabb’s Team 5 with Deadly Yabby. Deadly Yabby was a pipe and balsa pontoon powered by compressed air. It completed Sail-off – the length of the tank (9 metres) – in 2 seconds, then, continued on, running up the legs of the time-keeper (who was a first-time judge)!

Innovations Encouragement Award went to Avoca PS for its entry Avoca 3.

This year is the first time Avoca Primary School has entered the RACV Energy Breakthrough with four teams in Innovations in Technology and an entry in Pushcarts. Other first time entries came from Newstead Primary School (two Innovations and two Pushcarts) and Hillsmeade Primary School from Narre Warren area (one in Innovations and two vehicles in HPVA 2).

Congratulations to all teams for your enthusiasm and creativity.

Tricia Walsh
RACV ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH SUCCESS

The fourth weekend in November has seen Maryborough in Central Victoria host more than 20,000 school students and supporters in the 15th annual RACV Energy Breakthrough - the ‘Green Grand Prix’.

Since Thursday, November 24 teams from 146 Victorian primary and secondary schools have competed in a series of trials and presentations. Students have been working throughout the year to prepare for the event where the emphasis is on fun and ‘learning by doing’.

Primary school students showed how they used environmentally friendly technology to power small machines that are judged across three disciplines including design and construction, display and presentation plus the track or race component for Innovations, Pushcarts or HPVs. Results are based on team performance in each of these three areas to determine the overall winner.

Secondary school students were judged on how they designed, built, funded and prepared their human powered vehicles or hybrid-powered vehicles (a mix of human and mechanical power).

But the big test is how they perform at the Breakthrough’s signature event, the 24 hour endurance marathon which was started this year by Coxy’s Big Break’s Nicki Whealan.

Line honours in the hybrid category went to Staughton College (Melton) who completed 663 laps of the 1.1 kilometre Holden Track.

In the Human Powered category, the endurance event was won by Bendigo Senior Secondary College who completed an Energy Breakthrough record of 651 laps (previous record 644 laps) on the 1.3 kilometre RACV Track.

RACV Event Coordinator Ernest Litera said, "This has been one of the most successful events with a record year for school participation and attendance. Each year, more and more regional communities in Victoria and interstate are showing interest in hosting similar events.”

Primary School – Human Powered Vehicle results
Overall Winner – Weeroona College (Bendigo) – 345 laps
Design and construction – Weeroona College (Bendigo)
Display and presentation – Hazelwood North Primary (Bairnsdale)
Track/Race – Maryborough Education Centre (East Campus) – 346 laps
RACV Safety Award – Penbank School (Moorooduc)

Secondary School results
Human Powered Vehicles
Most laps – Bendigo Senior Secondary College, 651 laps
Human Powered Vehicles (Class B) – Highview College (Maryborough), 593 laps
Human Powered Vehicles (Class C) – Highview College, 521 laps
Human Powered Vehicles (Open) – Bendigo Senior Secondary College, 651 laps

Hybrid Powered Vehicles
Most laps - - Staughton College, 663 laps
Section 1 (Class B/C) – Staughton College, 663 laps
Section 1 (Open) – Weeroona College, 634 laps
Section 2 - Weeroona College, 648 laps

Sacha Bowen, RACV
Waste Wise at the RACV Energy Breakthrough

Recycling a winner!

Congratulations to all participants, teachers, parents and supporters for making waste management at this year’s Energy Breakthrough a resounding success.

A new system was introduced with an increased focus on recycling the larger water bottles and cardboard boxes. Cage trailers were positioned at each of the camping grounds to assist with this process. The support for this initiative was overwhelming and next year we will have more trailers to make access easier. The Waste Management Team from the Carisbrook Recreation Complex again did an excellent job. There was 60m³ of waste collected in dump bins ~ still lots of water bottles and cardboard but more cage trailers will reduce this ~ approximately 40m³ of waste collected in wheelie bins, 22m³ recyclables and 8m³ cardboard for recycling.

Feedback from you was also positive with 78.3% saying that the waste management was Good to Very Good. Congratulations to all! WASTE WISE at the Energy Breakthrough is going from strength to strength!

Photo: Large recycling trailer at Princes Park Oval
When Bruce Reiffel was a young lad still at school he developed a passion for bike riding. He became very good at it and was a runner-up in the Victorian School Boys Cycling Championships.

Bruce continued his bike riding and joined Mordialloc Cycling Club, then Noble Park for a number of years competing in club and state events.

A keen football follower and supporter of Melbourne, Bruce loved his sport and was heavily involved in coaching local and school teams throughout his time while teaching welding at Maryborough Technical College and then Maryborough Regional College.

Whilst still involved in football, during 1991 a lot changed when Energy Breakthrough came to town!

With only rudimentary knowledge and ideas of what these three wheelers were all about Bruce built a vehicle for the event to be staged in Maryborough. It only took 3 weeks to build and in his wife Jenny’s words, “It was a shocker!” Twenty eight inch wheels all round, a huge chain ring and so wide it was a big effort for the kids to push it around the track.

Throughout his time involved in Energy Breakthrough, Bruce gave of his time so willingly to help others. He wanted to see all the kids having fun! On many occasions Bruce could be found working until 3am or 4am to get a vehicle ‘track-worthy’ for a visiting team which did not have the tools and equipment that we locals had. Jenny would, at times, put the two boys to bed on the mezzanine floor above the school workshop and keep Bruce company while he worked. Students in his own team would also adopt the same practice in between helping Bruce repair or “cut and paste” their three-wheeled hope.

Jenny is not sure of the exact year but about 5 years ago Bruce noticed a vehicle from Yinnar Primary School trying to negotiate the circuit; it was in a very sorry state and Bruce was compelled to seek out the principal of that school and said that if the school delivered to him the relevant bits and pieces he would help build a better bike for them the following year! I think this good deed encapsulates the mindset Bruce harboured and reflected his philosophy pertaining to this event; “go out and do your best and above all have fun!”

His involvement didn’t just start and finish with Maryborough, he travelled widely, talking to students of Wesley College about design and training or taking a bike to and entering the Ballarat Begonia Festival, working with the local primary schools – helping and encouraging them. His technical knowledge and ‘how to get the speed in the legs’ was second to none.

Bruce gave so much of his time to the people and students involved in this event and his passing has left a void that none of us that are left could hope to fill. We will struggle on however, and continue to do as much as we are able, to assist the students build competitive vehicles in the shadow of his memory. He will be sadly missed, especially at this time.

Ray Matthews and Doug Marr (apprentices to the Great Man) ********

Editor’s note:

Editor’s note:

The Local Planning Committee decided to name the award for Human Powered Vehicles A Section 1 in Bruce Reiffel’s honour. It is now known as the ‘Bruce Reiffel Award’ and was awarded to Weeronga College ‘Bee Bee’ this year.

This recognises Bruce’s pioneering involvement in the RACV Energy Breakthrough and particularly his willingness to assist other schools. This is especially true of primary schools which he realised were often not as able as secondary colleges to design and construct a human powered vehicle.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE REIFFEL
For the first time Strathfieldsaye Primary School entered the Energy Break-Through Push Cart Challenge. Brady’s Tavern held a No Track Train Race on a Sunday in early February where interested students came along to try racing a billycart train down the driveway and around the car park.

On Tuesday afternoons we do Multi-Intelligence grouping. Many grade five and six students tried to get into the Push Cart team, but only eight people were chosen from the four classes. One of our original team members moved to Warrnambool so Karly was selected.

A billycart was donated to our school for our school fair. We decided we should road test it and try our skill at pushing and steering it. This was the start of our adventure.

We borrowed a push cart from Dunolly Primary School to get an idea of the specifications. We had some practice sessions and then went on to design our cart. After a number of meetings with parents and the team, we started to bring stuff that could be used to make a billycart.

Matthew’s Dad cut and welded a car barrier into the base of our cart. To fit it with wheels we needed some money so we also decided to have a sausage sizzle at a local supermarket. We needed prizes for the raffles and a place to have the sausage sizzle so we started writing sponsorship letters.

We had enough money to buy good wheels and the safety gear. Our next chassis had wheels on it but these couldn’t turn very well so our chassis was modified again.

Arvee Screen Printing donated the shirts and printed them for us. They looked great. Now we have a free wheeling push cart, uniform & safety gear. We had a great time in Maryborough and I want to be in next year’s entry.

By Nick Follett, Grade 5, Strathfieldsaye Primary School

For the first time Strathfieldsaye Primary School entered the Energy Break-Through Push Cart Challenge.

Strath Attack, RACV Energy Breakthrough

This year there was a total of 72 pushcart teams that made it on to the track at Maryborough for the 2005 RACV Energy Breakthrough. Although conditions were warm on Friday it was nowhere near the scorching conditions of last year and a full program of pushcart events was able to be run.

There were 27 teams entered in section 1 which caters for smaller primary schools. Design and Construction was won by Welton PS while Leitchville PS I were the winners of Display and Presentation. Keysborough Park PS I won the Track Events component. With the three components combined, the overall winner was Lockwood PS II with a total of 79.00. The runner-up team was St Joseph’s PS with a score of 77.70.

Section 2 for primary schools with larger enrolments had 42 teams entered. Orchard Grove PS won Design and Construction while St Augustine’s PS II was the successful team in Display and Presentation. The Track Events winner was Yarraman Park PS. The overall winner was Orchard Grove PS. The runner-up was the Mt Eliza PS I team. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Pushies at the 2005 Breakthrough.
The fourth Powercor Try-athlon was a great success, this time with Graham Bull taking the reins as regular Official George Nelson was overseas. This is the first time Powercor Australia has sponsored the event and Ray Rhodes from Powercor was on hand to see all the excitement and present the awards on the Saturday night on the Holden Stage.

Try-athlon teams participate in the Display & Presentation and Design & Construction sections, which represent 20% each and three physical tests: Time Trial, Obstacle and Endurance – resulting in the most widely assessed category at the Breakthrough. The event also combines primary, secondary and senior secondary teams together – so the event also has the widest age ranges as well.

Nineteen teams completed the 2005 event, with four entries from Overnewton Anglican Community College leaving early having completed the Display and Design elements. Some members of their teams were misbehaving and the co-ordinator soon decided that the students were better off at home – the Breakthrough is a privilege, not a right.

Beaconsfield Upper Primary School trumped all of the teams in the endurance event, completing 203 laps and winning the Open class. For a Primary school to beat a field of secondary school teams is an incredible effort. St Helena’s Class B/C entry Hel Fire flew around the Time Trial and Obstacle course, but it was the Golden Girls (aka The Joker) who won the Endurance trial and the Design & Construction event. A fantastic effort for an all-girls team.

Moorooduc Primary School’s Torque It Up performed an excellent Display & Presentation and won the Endurance by 7 laps to beat 2 teams from Berwick Primary & 2 from Beaconsfield Primary in Class A.

Graham stepped up and moved the timetable earlier on the Friday. Although seeming like a relatively small change at first, the effects were enjoyed for the rest of the day: Riders in the Powercor Try-Athlon hit the track earlier, there was more time to comfortably run the events and the Pushcarts Endurance event and the Secondary HPV practice session both started on time.

A special thank you to all Team Managers and assistants who helped run the Time Trial and Obstacle events. From timing the races, ensuring rider changeover procedures were correctly followed and assembling the teams when required – their work was irreplaceable.

The Powercor Australia Try-athlon – an event initially created to allow those who’d missed the quota for the HPV endurance events a ride – is now an excellent stand alone event in its own right. Feedback has shown it is the perfect event for first time schools who do not feel confident enough to take on a full 24 hour event.

‘…it is the perfect event for first-time schools …’
On Thursday 24th November an excited group of 15 students, 4 teachers and 3 parents left King’s at 5.00 AM in order to head down the Hume Highway and make our initial assault on the Victorian Energy Breakthrough competition.

Throughout the year students had been meeting at the Technology Department on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings in order to construct two cars. Entry one was a single seat vehicle powered by pedal and a Honda 50 cc petrol motor that was modified to run with a Haltech fuel injection system. Entry two was a dual seat vehicle powered by a small diesel and an electric motor. These vehicles became known as Lethal Injection and Diesel Demon and the two teams became competitive and protective of their cars. In the preceding weeks leading up to the competition teams had been travelling out to Eastern Creek where the Western Sydney International Dragway allowed us to use their car park as our test track.

We arrived in Maryborough at 6.00 PM and couldn’t gain access to our camping area until 8.00 PM. Finally around 10.00 PM we settled in for the first night. Much to our delight we were camped right next to Melbourne Girls Grammar who had 27 girls in their team. Saturday morning we were up for scrutineering where RACV technical officers examine the cars for rule compliance. They also award marks for design and build quality. A couple of quick changes were required on Lethal Injection and one of our parents was sent to the scour the town for a suitable muffler. Meanwhile the Diesel Demon team was practising their talks and considering whether to take up the challenge of having a song as the grand finale of their presentation.

At practice on the Friday evening all went smoothly, and Diesel Demon was awarded 8th place on the starting grid while Lethal Injection was awarded 20th. Come Saturday morning it was time to fuel up with the two seat car getting 4.5 litres of diesel and the single seat car getting 3 litres of petrol. Race start was at 1.00 PM. A short way into the race and with a little over zealous pedalling Lethal Injection’s chain wheel was bent and proved to be irreparable, however with a quick run to the other side of the track we managed to buy a spare and got back to the business of racing. Diesel Demon was circulating well and maintaining a steady second place outright. A little further into the race the chain drive from Lethal Injections motor twisted and broke so the boys had to continue without the motors assistance for several hours whilst the repair crew found a small engineering supply shop willing to open their doors at 7.00 PM on Saturday night. The boys showed tremendous spirit maintaining good lap times on pedal power alone until 2.00 AM when the car was bought in and had the chain replaced.

Diesel Demon powered on relentlessly with drivers spending around one and a half hours in the car. Tyre wear was a problem and several had to be changed, also we had not foreseen the cold temperatures and boys had to put on several layers of clothing in order to try and stay warm. Around 4.00 AM Diesel Demon’s diesel ran out and it was down to electrical power alone. Unfortunately we couldn’t keep the power up to the batteries and gradually became slower and slower so with mixed feelings we bought the car in after 404 laps and headed off to bed for a few hours sleep.

Meanwhile Lethal Injection had been given a new life and with petrol to spare lap times started to get faster and faster, in fact a new best lap time for the race was set in this period (1 min 35 sec). Eventually the sun came up and the race continued.

As 1.00 PM approached it was clear what the final positions would be, however this didn’t stop a last minute push, until at around three minutes to one a back tyre blew out and the car rolled over.

Overall the students, staff and parents involved in this event thought it was one of the best educational activities they had seen. All the effort of designing, building and testing the cars plus actually getting down to Maryborough for the three days was well worth the trouble and we would like to thank the organisers, volunteers, sponsors and the town of Maryborough for a great event. All the way back home boys were analysing how to improve next year’s entries, so we will be definitely returning.

Graham Bartlett
Head Teacher – Industrial Arts
The King’s School
Parramatta, Sydney NSW.
Our decision to participate in this year’s RACV Energy Breakthrough was prompted by our participation over the past four years at the Maryborough Technology Challenge, Queensland. At this Queensland race we competed in the senior mixed division and the all junior boys division. We came 2nd and 3rd respectively. With a total of 37 teams on the track it was certainly an eye opener to be confronted by a race field at the Breakthrough of just under 80 teams.

This adventure was always going to be a huge learning curve in so many different ways and this proved to be the case. Our first hurdle was the make up of our teams. With the trip costing $470.00 this was a problem for some of our existing members so therefore we had to seek the support of other non HPV students. Each team member was subsidized by $90.00 through our fund raising ventures.

Next hurdle 2 new trikes built to the southern safety standards. As one judge put it, we are where Maryborough Vic. was ten years ago. The construction of our trikes has taken 18 months to complete however the design concept is based on similar constructions in our area. What we encountered south has shed a completely new light on trike design so it is back to the drawing board. I am pleased that we completed the race virtually free of mechanical problems.

Due to the distance we would need to travel, a decision was taken to combine our race with an educational visit to Canberra on our return journey. In total we were away for nine days and we travelled approximately 3800km. Our first lesson was we should have allowed 3 days to get to Maryborough instead of 2 days. After 12hrs on the road on Wednesday we overnighted at Dubbo before completing another 12hr day and setting up camp in the dark at 10.00pm and having dinner around midnight. We were a tired and cranky lot and that included the teachers. Three days would have been much better and less stressful for our travel south.

On the weekend of the race we always knew that this would be a big learning curve for us, and our students very quickly found that they were in a different league compared to Maryborough Qld. Although our race plans and performance did not go quite according to plan I am confident that our junior students have benefited greatly from the experience.

Due to our tight traveling schedule we had to leave Maryborough as soon as the presentations were completed as we had a 3hr road trip to Benalla for our overnight stay. Although they were a tired lot we were on the road again at 8.00am making our way to Canberra for a 3.00pm session at Questacon. Tuesday morning and most students missed breakfast opting for a sleep in before our 10.00am to 12.00 sessions at Parliament House. There was a genuine interest by the students particularly the role play session of Parliament in their education unit. The afternoon session at the War Memorial provided the students with better understanding of the horrors of war while at the same time ensuring a sense of pride in what our fore fathers achieved ensuring our freedom.

Wednesday morning began as most other mornings with the loading of the trailer and we were once again on the road to Port Macquarie for our final night away. With free time in the Port and a severe thunder storm it proved to be a fitting end to what had been a grueling 9 day road trip. Upon our arrival home at the Gold Coast which is a place called Coombabah, (this is at the northern end of the coast - Runaway Bay - 10 minutes from Sanctuary Cove) 19 tired and home sick students greeted their parents with the thought of a good nights sleep in their own beds.

In summary this tour was always going to be a learning experience for all. Five days travelling out of a 9 day tour is too long to spend in a small bus. On the positive side our students and staff have benefited from the race and tour and at our debriefing we reflected upon the positives and negatives of our time away.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and array of volunteers who not only made us feel welcome but conducted a professional RACV Energy Breakthrough event. If HPV in Qld is to rise to the standard as set in Victoria and South Australia we need teams to travel to Qld and participate. We have a 6hr race in July at Ipswich and the 24hr event at Maryborough in September. Please come and enjoy our Queensland hospitality.

Kindest regards
JOHN ACKERS Coombabah State High School
HPV coordinator

‘… confident that our junior students have benefited greatly from the experience …’
John Trevorrow is proud to announce a ride to raise funds for the Amy Gillett Foundation, which was established soon after Amy was killed (and her team mates seriously injured) in a training accident in Germany earlier this year.

The ride has been sanctioned by Simon Gillett and the Amy Gillett Foundation and is held in conjunction with Stage 4 of the 2006 Jayco Bay Cycling Classic on Saturday 7 January 2006 at the Geelong Botanic Gardens - 9:30 - 11:00 am.

You will have the opportunity to ride with Robbie McEwen, Cadel Evans, Henk Vogels, Baden Cooke, Brad McGee, Graeme Brown, Brett Lancaster, Oenone Wood and all 280 stars of the 2006 Jayco Bay Cycling Classic.

All the ride information can be seen at http://amysride.com and entries can be taken by telephone, mail or online.

The foundation receives $10 from each entry and all sponsorship money raised by entrants.

Amy’s Ride is a great opportunity to support those who support cycling.