

16 November 2009

## **Energy Breakthrough - The Race Is On**

**THE transformation of Maryborough's Princes Park from tranquil parkland to a hub of excitement is on track for the staging of RACV's Energy Breakthrough on 19-22 November.**

Taking centre stage at the event will be the first English team to take part, Hailey Hall, and a team from Kinglake Primary School who rallied after the horrific bushfires that devastated their community this year to participate.

The English team of eight competitors, two reserves and four school staff – going by the name Hailey's Comet – will be hosted by Maryborough Regional College who will assist them in the preparation of their vehicle and share the pits at the event.

Kinglake Primary School Principal Peter Wyatt said preparing for Energy Breakthrough had buoyed the spirits of the students after a difficult year.

"This event has been the right tonic for these kids in light of what they've been through. It's been such a positive experience and they are energised and raring to go," Mr Wyatt said.

RACV Event Coordinator Ernest Litera said Energy Breakthrough was created 19 years ago with the aim of being Australia's premier science, technology and environmental event for school communities.

"Our dream was to create an event that would grab the imagination of young people and help them understand the importance of teamwork and the satisfaction of working toward a common goal," Mr Litera said.

"The success of this event has exceeded all our expectations and we anticipate this year's event, with our team of competitors from the UK, to be just as exciting and rewarding for all participants."

This year the event will attract 160 schools and 5000 participants with more than 12,000 expected to cheer the teams on.

A popular feature of the event is the Expo which focuses on interactive displays to provide visitors with an understanding of energy challenges and issues, as well as solutions to benefit the environment, and a fantastic entertainment program offering plenty of free activities for all ages.

There will be also plenty of opportunities to get hands-on in the Solar Energy Trailer with interactive demonstrations on energy generation, efficiency and renewable energy technologies including solar electricity, solar hot water and wind power.

Visitors can determine the emission levels of their vehicles by using an emission calculator provided by [greenwheels.com.au](http://greenwheels.com.au) at the Low Emission Vehicle display. A number of electric and solar vehicles along with two RACV heritage vehicles, an electric car and the Aurora Solar Vehicle will also be on display.

The crew from Future Spark will have their energy producing trailer on show on Saturday, 21 November, with 12 bikes – each connected to a generator – demonstrating the power of people produced energy.

The Electronic Stability Control (ESC) simulator will also be onsite with visitors able to sit inside the simulator and see how life-saving ESC technology works.

**For more information:**

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*The 2009 RACV Energy Breakthrough is a joint initiative of RACV, Country Education Program and Central Goldfields Shire Council.*