

Special Feature – The Regional Finals Wrap up...

On the 17th July the F1inSchools Pine Rivers Regional Finals were held at the Strathpine Community Centre, Strathpine. Eight teams of students competed in the across three age and experience categories with the desire to win through to the Qld State Finals in Toowoomba later this year. The work exhibited by the students was very good and their standard of professionalism raised from 2008 regional finals. Hard to imagine that last year's winners of this event, the current holders of Australia's Fastest car category from the National Finals in Canberra the **"Razorbacks"**, would have struggled to progress against the level of competition the teams produced this year.



This year's amazing car entries – Outstanding!

The day was kicked off with some inspiring words from our guest chief judge Daniel Bryan-Curnow, a previous student from the REA F1inSchools competition and previous 3rd place getter at the World Titles in Birmingham UK 2004. This year at the Regional Finals it was decided that the teams would go through the full judging criteria, so that they would be fully prepared for progression to State Finals. The judging of the teams consisted of CAD/CAM, Collaboration with Industry, Speed of cars, Reaction Racing, Marketing, F1 Car Design, Innovation, Oral Presentations, Static Displays, a Design Folio, Car Specifications and Quality of Manufacture – all out of a total of 300points to decide the winners.

The teams had to work through three different rotations during the day. One of those rotations was the judging of engineering, design folios, static displays and oral presentations. Each team had approximately 20 minutes of time where they could show case their skills to the judges. The volunteer judges were often bringing me stories throughout the day about how impressed they were with the quality of work being produced and how articulate the teams were about the designs of their cars. Some very interesting displays were on show and there was certainly plenty time needed to look across all of the work that the teams had on display.



Engineering judge Jeff Lurie hard at work

The second rotation was a tour of a local supporting engineering firm – Nordon Cylinders. Chris Woodrow, as past team member of the **"Razorbacks"** in 2008 and now an apprentice engineer, conducted the tour. The students got to see state of the art robot "pods" machining cylinder parts, talk with design engineers and view the factory in action. The whole tour lasted about an hour and hopefully gave students a good insight and inspiration into engineering in action.

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The third rotation was the racing of the cars. The Junior Professional category was certainly the most exciting racing of the morning, with the cars crossing the finish line within 0.010's of a second of each other. The **"Carbies"** coming out victors with their very interestingly Barbie doll inspired race



Super close racing – Shock Wave on the LHS showing the highs and lows of racing against the Carbies

car design against an impressive **"Shock Wave"** car. Possibly the greatest achievement from all of the team cars speed results was from the Junior Amateur category the **"Nitro Monkeys"**. This category is only allowed to use limited machining and standard wheels, but they managed the fastest times throughout the day. This was a great achievement considering that this team of year 8 students stood toe to toe with year 11 & 12 teams and showed them how it was done.

Throughout the day many visitors, including family, visiting industry representatives and sponsors talked with and viewed the student work. This generated a real exciting vibe for the event. Whilst the judges were tabulating the final results, an elimination reaction race was conducted for the three fastest cars from the day's today's racing to see who would get the opportunity to race off against the **"Razorbacks"** and Australia's fastest car. Unfortunately **"Speed Demons"** 2nd fastest car of the day had a weight technicality that eliminated it from the not judged, but very exciting and fun part of the day's program. **"Co2 Ninjas"** also had a fast car that was under weight and were hit with a 0.5sec penalty. Sam Bryant, former member of the **"Razorbacks"** team, who is in this year's newly formed **"Red Hawk Racing"** team, also missed out the opportunity of attempting to beat



Speed Demons – A slick looking team with a very fast car ended up being penalised with an under weight car



Co2 Ninjas had an amazing looking booth, they too were penalised by having a fast car 2grams under weight

his own car from 2008 with his new 2009 car that had being given a 0.5 second penalty for being 3mm too short to meet specifications. Both of these cases emphasised the need for teams to strictly follow the specifications that are required for the designs of these cars. It was a hard lesson for these teams learn.

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For this fun and not judged part of the day, each team category had a representative: “**Daybro’s N.Z. Racing**” from the Senior Professional class, “**Carbies**” from the Junior Professional Class and “**Nitro Monkeys**” from the Junior Amateur class. The first elimination race was between the slowest two of the three cars. It was closely contested, with the “**Daybro’s N.Z. Racing**” team winning through with a very good looking car design. The final elimination round to see who would race against the “**Razorbacks**” car was a powerful display of superior speed by the young “**Nitro Monkeys**” team, winning both races. In the last racing of the day former engineer for the “**Razorbacks**”, Chris Woodrow held his nerve to keep his old team’s car undefeated. It was very close however as “**Nitro Monkeys**” reaction race driver, Joshua McClennan who is the grandson of 6 times National champion in Top Door slammer - drag racing legend Victor Bray, had amazing reaction times pushing the “**Razorbacks**” car right to the finish line with a gap of only 0.012 seconds. It was an exciting closure to complete the day’s proceedings.



Nitro Monkeys were the surprise team of the day, clocking the fastest time of the day a respectable 1.177seconds

Visiting students from Mueller College in Deception Bay were very inspired to participate in next year’s competition and we also had a parent express the desire to start a team in one of our local primary schools. This competition embraces creativity, technical skills, social skills and many other valuable educational areas. Through the F1inSchools Challenge, these developing young minds will have different opportunities to further enhance their education to allow them every opportunity to reach their full potential. We are excited with this news and look forward to welcoming and encouraging these students into an inspiring engineering environment!

The day ended with an awards presentation, where Principal of Pine Rivers State High School, Ms Janelle Deakin spoke very passionately about how proud she was to be a principal and why she chose teaching as a career. She spoke of her belief that this type of student engagement that keeps her passionately motivated to continue in her role. It was a real testament to the quality of work produced and exhibited by the students.

The winners during the awards presentations were:

The Autobarn Lawnton’s Best Team Marketing Award was presented to the Junior Professional team the “**Carbies**” who with their Barbie Doll theme stole the show. It was an exciting marketing plan that certainly drew some attention to the work they were doing and their respective sponsors.



The cars to inspire the teams of 2010?

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The Moreton Bay Regional Council's Fastest Car Award was presented to the Amateur Junior team the **"Nitro Monkeys"**. They clocked the fastest time of 1.177, a whole 0.077 seconds faster than their nearest rivals, the **"Carbies"** and a good time considering the restrictions on this class and the fact that it was a very cold day.

The Moreton Bay Regional Council's Best Engineering Award was awarded to the Senior Professional team **"Red Hawk Racing"** who presented a car that was highly technical and fulfilled all of the criteria needed to win this category. They just exceeded the score of the **"Carbies"** in the Junior Professional class who came to winning this award with their exceptionally designed car. A special mention should be noted in this category to **"Nitro Monkeys"** for their engineering ability considering the time they have had exposure to the program and limitations on their category, team **"Shock Wave"** for their amazing amount and the quality of their renders, and lastly for the **"Speed Demons"** well designed rapid proto-typed wheels.



Red Hawk Racing's best engineered car

The B.P Bulwar Island Innovation Award was awarded to the Senior Professional team **"Red Hawk Racing"**, whose innovative ideas in using different materials in different ways in their car design helped them to step ahead of the competition.

The Winners of each of the competing categories that will now be going on to represent the district at the Qld State Finals in Toowoomba are:



Nitro Monkeys, Josh McClennan, Luke Meredith, Megan Gaskell & Alysha Limmer win the Moreton Bay Regional Council Fastest Car award and the Junior Amateur Class Division Winners- best of luck in the State finals!

Junior Amateur Class Champions:

"Nitro Monkeys"



"Carbies", Zoe Power, Jodie Croxon, Jess Fagg, Sarah Hewitt-Howell & Gina Contarino win the Autobarn Best Marketing Award and the Junior Professional Class Division Winners – look out for these girls at the State finals.

Junior Professional Class Champions: **"Carbies"**



"Red Hawk Racing"- Shivnesh Goundar, Josh Smith, Sam Bryant, Matt Kachel & Laura Wilkinson won the Moreton Bay Regional Council Best Engineering Award, BP Bulwar Island Best Innovation Award and the Senior Professional Class Division Winners – congratulations!

Senior Professional Class Champions: "Red Hawk Racing"

Congratulations teams, we will all follow your progress with interest and we are sure that you will do the district proud at the Qld State Finals.

The overall champions from the days judging with the overall highest points total across all the competing categories is awarded the Nordon Cylinders Pine Rivers Regional Champions Cup. The previous two years this has been won by the **"Razorbacks"**, who then went on to place 3rd overall in 2007 and then 2nd overall in the Qld finals. Let's hope this year's winner can go on to the next level.

This year's winners of the Nordon Cylinders Pine Rivers Regional Champions Cup were:

"Red Hawk Racing"

Congratulations to this year's participating teams; Daybro's N.Z Racing, Red Hawk Racing, Nitro Monkeys, Carbies, Shock Wave, Extreme Heat, Co2 Ninjas and the Speed Demons. You all presented yourself and your school so very well, you should be proud of your efforts.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who made the event possible, Judy Rielly, Christopher Mills, Caroline Mills, Jenny Muller, Jasmine Smith, Jeff Lurie, Zach, Daniel Bryan-Curnow, Micky Rielly, Moe Rielly, Tony Rielly, Peter Kirakov, Shane Needer, Chris Gator, Patrick Vale, Bruce Cooper and Gordon Power.

A big thank you to our major sponsors of the hub finals, Pine Rivers SHS, Nordon Cylinders, Moreton Bay Regional Council (specifically Mick Gilliam & Mike Charlton), and BP Refinery Bulwar Island and Autobarn Lawnton. Without your financial and in-kind support the event would not be able to happen.

And lastly thank you to all the individual sponsors and parents of our participating students. Without your support these students would not have been able to have experienced the F1inSchools challenge. Thank you.



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