



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

16th July 2009

\$20,000 FOR DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH TEAM

A student-led group working on alternative energy solutions at Ballarat's Damascus College will be able to expand their program thanks to \$20,000 funding from the Victorian Government.

Geoff Howard MP, State Member for Ballarat East, who visited the school today, said the student-led Energy Breakthrough Team will use the funding to continue to develop and build energy efficient hybrid and Human Powered Vehicles.

"These students are leading the way in designing, building, and racing their own hybrid vehicles on the world stage," Mr Howard said.

"This sponsorship recognises the important and innovative work the school and the Energy Breakthrough Team is doing to raise awareness about sustainable energy solutions."

The funding has been provided by the Victorian Government's Energy Saving Campaign, also known as the 'black balloons' campaign.

Mr Howard said the Energy Breakthrough Team are not only world leaders in the design, construction and technical innovation in the area of hybrid racing vehicles, they are actively using their skills to teach others how they can reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

"I wish the students and the school all the best in their efforts to ride all the way from Darwin to Melbourne to highlight the great work they're doing," Mr Howard said.

"These dedicated students and teachers are using their innovative and ground breaking vehicles and their Ride Against Greenhouse Emissions activities, to spread awareness of what we can all do to reduce climate change – and that's definitely worth supporting."

The Energy Breakthrough Team Organiser, Mark McLean, thanked Mr Howard for the funding and said it will allow the team to continue their work.

"We are excited by the possibilities for the team to help people within our school community and around the country to learn more about living in a sustainable way," Mr McLean said.

Team Captain, Lucas Brennan said he believed strongly in working towards a more sustainable future.

"I look forward to a future that won't have a negative impact on the following generations and where we're all able to live together on a healthy planet, he said.

For more information on ways to save energy, visit www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au

Contact: Geoff Howard MLA Member for Ballarat East 5331 7722