

## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 24 HOUR ENDURANCE RACE

On the weekend of March 19-20, more than twenty Damascus College Ballarat students participated in the Wonthaggi Human Powered Grand Prix, a three day event involving primary schools, secondary schools and adult teams, racing human powered vehicles over a 1.4km street circuit, including a non-stop 24 hour race for senior students and adults.

These twenty students are part of the much larger Damascus Energy Breakthrough Team (EBT), where students are lucky enough to have the opportunity to choose the Energy Breakthrough Team unit in Year 9 of their studies. This unit is an integrated year-long unit where students access learning outcomes from a range of disciplines.

Throughout the year, students investigate a range of concepts including principles of flight and aerodynamics, steering systems, drive systems, welding techniques, safety aspects in motor sports and pit crew organisation. All of this and more is supported with hands-on practical testing and experiments.

Mark McLean, EBT Coordinator and Teacher said that the students are involved in EBT work throughout the year to design, build and test vehicles within detailed specifications. Their purpose is not just to build machines but more importantly to build people through mentoring, leadership, innovation, problem solving and team work. “The recent Wonthaggi student results were excellent, especially considering the event is an ‘open’ event, including adult teams and even state level cyclists” he said.

Mr McLean continued saying “the students were a credit to the College and were excellent representatives. The pit crew team of students were also fantastic at maintaining the vehicles and having the responsibility of rider changeovers. They particularly enjoyed the Human Powered 24 hour race, which involved teams of eight people, racing a three or four wheeled recumbent vehicle around a 1.4km street circuit in Wonthaggi. It really was a test of endurance for the vehicles and the competitors.”

