

## Media information

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### Local schools on track for F1 success

Students from two Macarthur high schools visited Nepean Engineering at Narellan this week to see their designs for a Formula One racecar transformed into real scale models.

The two groups of students – one from Picton High School, the other from Magdalene Catholic High School at Narellan - are competing in the State finals of the *F1inSchools Challenge*, a competition open to all Australian secondary schools to design and manufacture CO2 powered model Formula One cars.

Nepean Engineering is a major local sponsor of the competition, which aims to interest students in careers in manufacturing and engineering.

To date, the two school teams have each designed and manufactured a working balsa wood scale model of an F1 car, using sophisticated computer software programs and a CNC machine.

But as part of its involvement, Nepean undertook to also produce an aluminium model of each car body to show the students how their designs could be realised on a computer-aided, high speed machining centre.

The aluminium models produced at Nepean's Narellan manufacturing facility this week will go on show alongside the balsa wood models as part of the teams' presentations at the State finals, to be held at Mt. Druitt TAFE on October 20 and 21.

Stephen Cantrill, of Nepean Engineering, says Nepean has been proud to come on board as the first major sponsor of the competition in the Macarthur region.

"We've been working with local schools for several months on this project," he said.

"One school in each region acts as a hub for the other schools in the area. Re-Engineering Australia Forum (REA) provided the computer and software resources to the hub school for Macarthur region, which is Magdalene High School, to enable any secondary schools in the region to participate. We provided financial support to REA as part of our commitment and belief in the future of engineering as a career of choice.

"One of our engineers has also been mentoring the teams, providing technical support to help them finalise their designs.

"From our perspective, it's a great way of getting students thinking about manufacturing and engineering as future careers."

The teams from Picton and Magdalene high schools will be competing for a place at the national finals of the 2008 competition, to be held in Canberra next month, with the outright winners taking on the world at the *F1inSchools* International finals.

For more information:  
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**Photo caption:** *Nepean Engineering's Stephen Cantrill (right) shows the students from Magdalene High School the aluminium model of their F1 car design.*

