



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RACE DRIVING STUDENTS TO SCIENCE



The annual Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Festival will be featuring its fifth electric vehicle competition, culminating in the student prize race on 13 August at the Newcastle Kart Raceway in Cameron Park.

The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment at the University of Newcastle initiated the festival with two goals in mind: to encourage and attract more school students into careers in science and engineering and to stimulate clean energy manufacturing in the region.

The electric vehicle competition gives students a fun format to explore physics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics, as well as emerging sciences such as nanotechnology, which is the basis for recent improvements in battery technology.

Beginning in 2011 with just eight teams and 300 spectators, the competition last year boasted 61 teams from 18 schools and 5,000 spectators.

We find that schools which participated in one year are consistently found to have entered a team in subsequent years of the competition. Similarly students tend to be involved for more than one year.

Participating students have said that the process of designing, building and racing their electric vehicles has been fun, and has developed their technical skills, problem-solving and teamwork. Feedback from teachers suggest student engagement in the sciences has improved, and more students are electing to study science, technology and maths subjects in their senior years and into university.

For more information on the 2015 Electric Vehicle Festival visit: www.hunterevfestival.net. For telephone enquiries please call 02 4985 4169.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

50

1965-2015

This column is proudly supported by the Newcastle Herald

