

# They are off and racing in schools

FLIP PRIOR

The cars may be small but they're powered by the same principles that send Formula One vehicles roaring at top speeds.

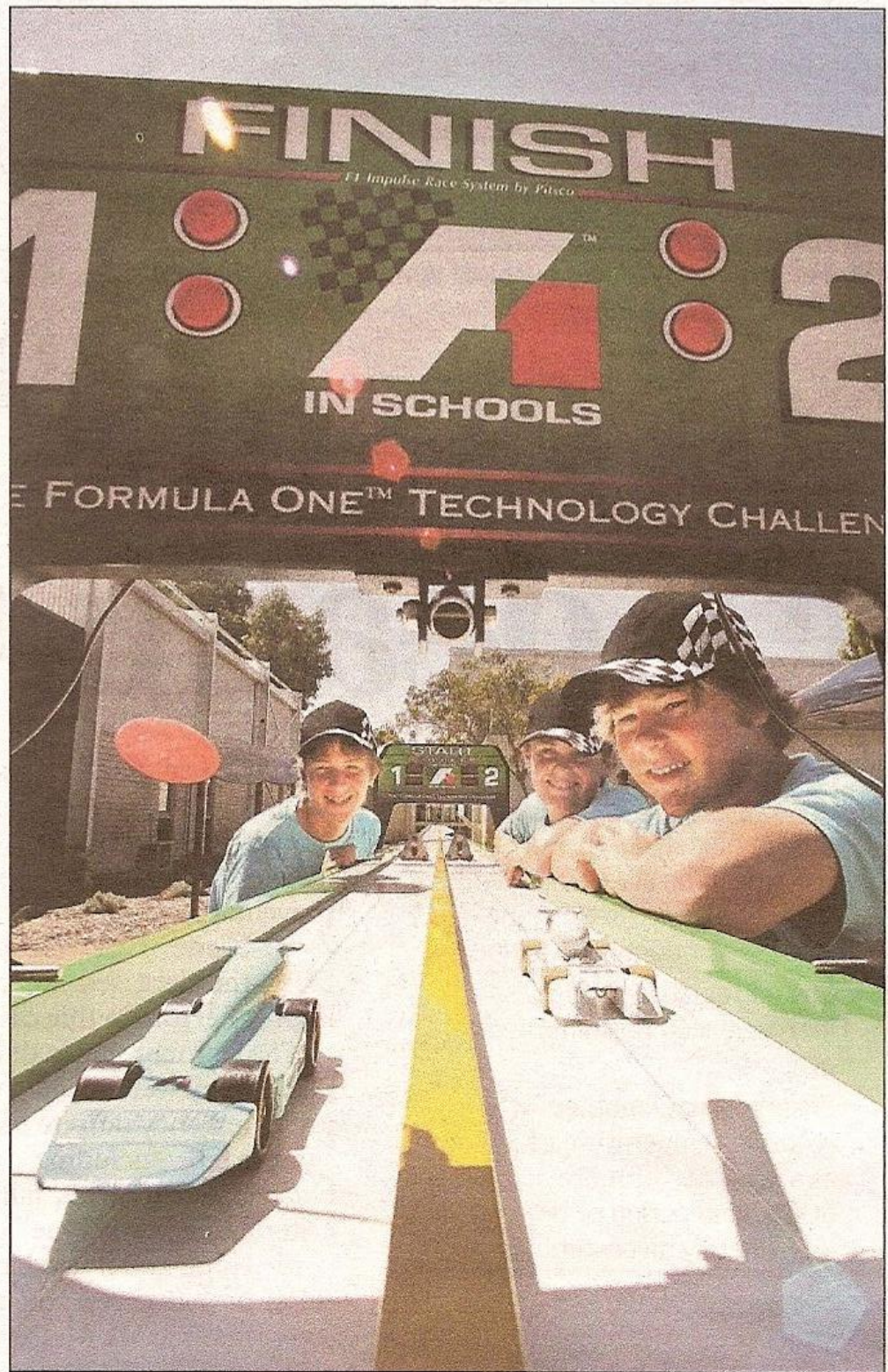
Students aged 11 to 16 gathered at Polytechnic West in Midland yesterday for the launch of the 2010 F1 in Schools Technology Challenge, designed to test miniatures of the real thing.

Re-engineering Australia Foundation spokesman Arun D'Souza said the project was about providing children with a potential career path in science or engineering.

"They get exposed to the world's best engineering practices and software that people such as Jaguar and Boeing use — it's real industry stuff," he said.

More than two million students in 25 countries compete in the event, including about 35,000 in Australia.

The students use 3-D



**Racers: Callum Hey, Josef Hebiton and Mark Halden.** Picture: Ian Munro

software to design the vehicles before carving them out of a balsa wood block.

They then have to test the cars in a virtual environment,

make them and perform real-world experiments before racing against others.

The State final will be in Perth on September 10.