

Gilgandra team heats up F1 in schools



In their first year of the F1 in schools championship a team from Gilgandra High School has collected the national innovation award in the apprentice class.

The F1 in Schools competition pits teams from around Australia together to design, test, build and race model formula 1 racing cars propelled by CO2 canisters.

The team from Gilgandra High School – the CAR factor, not only participated in the National finals held in Melbourne, they proved that the temperature of the CO2 canister directly impacts the car's speed. This research won the team the National Innovation Award.

Gilgandra High School's Computer Coordinator and supervisor of the CAR factor, Russell Woollams said it was exciting that a team from a regional school could go so far in the national competition in just their first year.

"It has also really opened their eyes to the opportunities of engineering as a career," Mr Woollams said.

"They have been able to visit and speak with a variety of businesses and sponsors and are quite excited about what engineering is all about," he said.

The CAR Factor will be competing again when the 2010 season commences in Term 3 and would relish with some new competition.

There is a Dubbo and a Lachlan technology hub that have the necessary technology including router machines, wind tunnels and race tracks.

All individual schools need is the computer assisted design software and some willing participants.

"To see the impact this competition has on the students it is definitely worth the effort to get a team involved," Mr Woollams said.