



School needs urgent help to defend solar title

8 June 2005

Eyre Peninsula businesses have been urged to help Port Lincoln High School defend its title at this year's World Solar Cycle Challenge by making donations in cash or in kind to the team.

The team came first in the school's division of the 2003 event and was the first Australian cycle across the line and came fourth overall behind three international entries.

Member for Flinders Mrs Liz Penfold said the team desperately needed funding in the next couple of weeks so that it could start building its entry in time for the 2005 event in September.

In-kind donations such as engineering work would also be a great help to the team.

This year's World Solar Cycle Challenge is expected to attract 25 entries from Australia and overseas. It is aimed at promoting use of renewable energy and the advancement of engineering and aerodynamic design.

"It would be a great shame if Port Lincoln has to drop out of such a prestigious event being held in our own backyard because we can't raise enough money," Mrs Penfold said.

"The students get an enormous amount out of taking part in this event because they are learning about physics and engineering and skills such as planning, race strategy and teamwork. They also get fit and during the race they have the chance to meet people from many different countries."

The team is led by technology teacher Gary Pelletier, who said they needed to raise a total of \$23,000 to enter the race, which covers the 1500 km from Ceduna to Adelaide.

So far, the team has only been able to raise \$2000, including a personal donation of \$1000 from Mrs Penfold. She said Mr John Ison suggested the donation be in memory of the school's former science teacher, Helen Castle, who died tragically in the January bushfires.

"Helen was a great supporter of the Solar Cycle Challenge and I am sure she would have liked to see the school compete again in the event after its success in 2003," Mrs Penfold said.

"She loved everything that required students to think outside the box and take a closer look at how things work in this world."

Gary Pelletier can be contacted on 0427 821 718.

WELCOME HOME YURNO
27th October 2003

The World Champion Port Lincoln Solar Bike Team is due back in Port Lincoln this afternoon around 3.00pm. They will travel down Tasman Terrace to the Post Office and through to the High School.

We invite the Port Lincoln people to come and see the bike and give the team a rousing welcome along their route or at the Port Lincoln High School.

The team won their section of the Solar Challenge and came 4th overall against International competition. The 2 Malaysian University teams came 1st and 2nd with an Italian team coming 3rd.

A special thank you to those who sponsored the team at very short notice for their successful bid.

For more information on exact arrival times contact:
Max Coulson 0438 820 774 or Gary Pelletier 0427 821 718

APPEAL FOR BUS FOR SOLAR BIKE CHALLENGE
25 September 2003

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold has appealed to Premier Mike Rann to enlist his aid in finding a support bus for the Port Lincoln High School's entry in the World Solar Cycle Challenge.

Suitable transport for the support crew is now a major hurdle facing the school's team.

Fourteen entries from across the world have been received for the event which starts in Ceduna on October 19 and ends in Adelaide on October 26.

"Staff and students have committed to building a bike that they believe is so technologically advanced that it has a real chance of winning the event.

"This would be a spectacular coup for this remote school and for our state," Mrs Penfold said.

An Adelaide electronics company, eLabtronics, has provided the most up to date technology designed specifically for this type of racing. Support and technical advice has also come from BP who sold the latest solar panels to the school and to Greenspan for the frame.

Mrs Penfold said the cost of hiring a bus and paying for fuel was beyond the finances of team, many of whom had already contributed significantly to add to the generous donations already received from many organisations and from business across Eyre Peninsula.

"We are banking on the Premier finding a suitable bus or providing the funds to hire one along with an additional grant for fuel," she said.

Anyone wanting to make a donation may contact the Port Lincoln High School on 8682 3677. Your donation will make the difference to the team's success.

**EP hosts World Solar Cycle Challenge
1 September 2003**

Port Lincoln High School has created a local "first" with its entry in the 2003 World Solar Cycle Challenge.

Excitement is running high with the main component – a Greenspeed recumbent trike fitted with an electric hub motor - due to arrive in boxes next Friday 5th September.

High school technology teachers Gary Pelletier and David Hawes are coordinating the building of the solar cycle, training participants and organising support crew.

Mr Pelletier said the next few weeks would be frenzied with the completion and testing of the solar cycle, training of the drivers, and organisation of the backup needed.

"Our chief need at this stage is sponsors to cover the cost of the trike and ancillary equipment.

"We estimate that the all-up cost of competing will be \$12,000 or so," he said.

Mr Pelletier said sponsors would receive publicity in an event that has international entrants and world coverage.

He said the involvement of students would stimulate their knowledge of, and practical expertise in, solar design technology which is being used world-wide in an increasing variety of applications.

The race which will begin at Ceduna on 19 October and finish in Adelaide six days later and will put Eyre Peninsula in the world spotlight.

The Solar Cycle Race has been run in conjunction with the Darwin-Adelaide Solar Car Challenge but is being separated from that event.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said it was a coup for Eyre Peninsula to capture the start of the race, while the value of the national and international publicity that would be generated was inestimable.

The challenge begins at Ceduna, travels through Streaky Bay and Elliston, detours into Coffin Bay before heading for Port Lincoln. The route then goes through Tumbly Bay, Cummins, Lock, Cleve, Cowell and Whyalla. Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Melrose, Clare, Kapunda and Adelaide make up the final legs.

The Ceduna and Whyalla councils have made a commitment to host the start and finish of the Eyre Peninsula section of the race.

Sponsorships range from platinum at \$5000 to bronze at \$100 and will be advertised on the cycle or the backup vehicle.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Pelletier or Mr Hawes at the Port Lincoln High School.

Contact: **Gary Pelletier 0427 821 718**