





by Redline Racing's Alistair Smith

hree Australian high-school teams travelled to London in September to compete in the F1 in Schools World Championships – and almost scooped the pool. Redline Racing from Trinity Christian School, ACT; AC Racing representing Noosa District State High School, Queensland, in collaboration with Miles MacDonell Collegiate, Manitoba, Canada; and, Bio-Hazard from Menai High School, NSW, took out second, third and fourth places overall, as well as wins in several categories.

Redline Racing were the proud builders of the 2009 Fastest Car in the World, while AC Racing took Best Collaboration and Best Team Portfolio, while Bio-Hazard presented the Best Pit Display. Team Australia also claimed the F1 in Schools 'ashes' thrashing the English teams in the time trials.

Then reigning F1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton added extra prestige to proceedings, taking a keen interest in the competition and was on hand during the gala results announcement. "I've really enjoyed meeting the students and finding out more about this exciting global initiative," Hamilton said.

"The global popularity and high-tech world of Formula One provides a very exciting and engaging platform for education and it is great to see it being used within schools to enthuse

students to study engineering, as well as the other key school subjects." Apart from the excitement of competition and

the tension of the wait for results, the Aussie teams participated in a study tour that included sites in London and Paris, and a side trip to the Red Bull F1 Racing Team factory not long after Mark Webber's first race win.

F1 in Schools is an international competition for kids aged 11 to 18, in which groups of three to five must design, analyse, test, manufacture and race miniature CO²-powered, balsa-wood Formula One cars. The cars are raced in pairs, timed over an 80-foot (24m) track.

Currently, 26 countries participate in the scheme, which exposes participants to many facets of the F1 industry - everything from physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, leadership/ teamwork, project management, media engagement, marketing and public speaking.

Thirty-one teams from 20 countries were entered in this year's World Championships, with the Koni Kats from Ireland the outright winners.

The fastest car in the World, built by Redline Racing



Best Pit Display: Best Collaboration: AC Racing Best Team Portfolio: AC Racing

AUSTRALIA'S RACING RESULTS Redline Racing: 1st **Bio-Hazard**: 10th 12th

AC Racing:

FINAL PLACINGS

1st: Koni Kats (Ireland)

School, ACT)

Canada)

NSW)

AWARDS

Fastest Car:

3rd: AC Racing (Noosa District State

High School, Qld and Miles

4th: Bio-Hazard (Menai High School,

Redline Racing

(1.055 seconds)

Bio-Hazard



57

F1 IN SCHOOLS