

Australia, November 16, 2015

Cadel Evans awards Australia's FutuRide winner in Perth

Australian cycling legend Cadel Evans today presented an award to a Perth high school student who has won a national technology competition.

The Tour de France champion visited Methodists Ladies' College (MLC) in Claremont where he presented the award to Year 12 student Jackie Bridgwood, the national winner of the Siemens FutuRide program.

Siemens instigated the FutuRide competition to encourage young people to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics, known collectively as STEM. This comes as the Australian Government committed a further \$12 million (over the \$5 million allocated in 2014/15 budget) to restore the focus on STEM subjects and increase primary and secondary school student uptake in these subjects across the country.

Jackie's outstanding entry proposed an innovative approach to generating power by harnessing the power of taps on mobile phones and other mobile devices. With 6.7 trillion messages sent each year – or 220,000 messages a second – Jackie explored the potential to utilise this energy.

"So what if finger taps could generate power?" Jackie asks in her video entry, which explores the possibility of using the vibrations of the tap to generate power that would charge the device being used, or collecting the collaborative taps in an office to power the building.

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For her winning efforts, Jackie has won her school four power-generating bikes worth more than \$4,000, which were presented to the College today by Siemens ambassador Cadel Evans and Dr. Roland Busch, a member of the Managing Board of Siemens AG visiting Perth as part of his four-city Australian tour.

MLC Principal, Ms Rebecca Cody, congratulated Jackie and all of the girls who entered the competition.

“Jackie’s brilliance and creativity shines through in this innovative concept where the everyday suddenly becomes something extraordinary,” she said.

According to Jeff Connolly, CEO of Siemens Australia, “The FutuRide program rewards schools and students who put their innovative ideas for powering a better future using science and technology into a short video. As a global technology leader, we want to help reverse the trend of young people dropping away from STEM subjects. We have been very impressed with the standard of this year’s entries, and particularly wish to congratulate Jackie Bridgwood on her outstanding and highly creative entry.”

Two primary and 18 secondary schools around Australia were also awarded the unique FutuRide power-generating bikes as prizes for their strong entries in the competition; while MLC was also rewarded the visit from Cadel Evans as a result of Jackie being the overall winner.

When launching the program in July of this year, Cadel Evans said he hoped the contest would inspire teachers and students to engage in STEM subjects.

“I want Australian kids to have as much passion for science, technology, engineering and maths as they have for sport.

“Australia has shown the world time and time again that in sport we punch above our weight. It's time to do this in skills and knowledge as well,” said Cadel.

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The Federal Government said it will provide funding across four key pillars, which include: providing innovative mathematics curriculum resources to foster inquiry-led teaching; introducing computer coding across different years levels; innovative approaches to education based on the United States' P-TECH model; and summer schools for STEM students.

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