

UNSW Solar Car visits Manly Selective Campus

On Wednesday, 21st November, the long awaited visit from the UNSW Solar Challenge Team took place during our assembly. The Hon. Mr Mike Baird visited the school to recognise our school as the winning team of the Engineering Challenge that took place at NSW Parliament House last month.



This visit was (briefly) reported in the Manly Daily on Tuesday 4th December.



The UNSW team leader, Yael Augarten, who spoke to the Year 9 group at the conclusion of the assembly, was an exceptionally motivating speaker. She outlined the many scientific principles behind the car and described how some of the challenges in designing and building the car had been overcome by her team. Our students found her talk of great interest and Yael commented at the

conclusion about the insightful questions that were asked. Tim Anderson, in particular, gained extra information about the car as he sat within the cockpit of this extraordinary vehicle.

Coincidentally, whilst on a visit to one of the CSIRO's buildings in Lindfield on Tuesday, Mr Cowan and I heard a talk from a scientist who had developed the type of rotary electric motor used in this vehicle. The principles used in this 200kg car have been applied in a prototype that has been developed for Holden, the ECOcommodore. This may well help contribute to the reduction of global warming in the future.

We certainly hope that students take up the engineering challenges that have been presented to them over the year and choose to pursue their interests in Science, as our future needs many creative problem solvers to work in these areas.

Bill Baker, Science Department.