



SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

POWER THE NEXT BUILD.

Ballarat Hackerspace gives every school-built Energy Breakthrough team access to professional-grade engineering. Budget shouldn't decide who gets it. Your sponsorship is what makes that possible.

\$100K+

PRO-BONO VALUE, FIRST SCHOOL

EQUITY-FIRST

SUPPORT MODEL

REPLICABLE

ACROSS SCHOOLS & REGIONS

OVERVIEW

Energy Breakthrough

The Energy Breakthrough is a long-running Victorian STEM initiative where students design, build, and race energy-efficient vehicles and other technology. Teachers, families, and industry pitch in too, so it's hands-on for everyone, not just the kids at the workbench.

Ballarat Hackerspace is a not-for-profit organisation that backs competing schools with professional-grade engineering, fabrication, electronics, and data systems expertise. We run on an equity-based model: public schools go first, and costs get redistributed so more teams can actually afford to compete.



ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH — RACE DAY, MARYBOROUGH

“Our goal is simple: every student gets the same depth of learning and opportunity, no matter what their school can afford.”

THE CHALLENGE

The problems we’re solving

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFTEN FACE

- Limited budgets for materials and tooling
- Restricted access to specialist engineering skills
- Inability to compete technically with better-resourced schools

VS

YET ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH DEMANDS

- Safe, reliable, high-performance vehicles
- Evidence-based design decisions
- Systems thinking across mechanics, electronics, and data

Left alone, that gap can keep kids out of the competition entirely.

INDUSTRY CONTEXT

Most teams compete in commercial off-the-shelf vehicles supplied by a small number of manufacturers, rather than fully custom builds. A number of these suppliers have moved toward a single-use model: moderate crash damage typically requires a full replacement, spare parts availability is declining, and reuse is generally not supported.

Schools are often required to replace equipment they have already paid for.



OUR MODEL

Community Engineering for Education

Our support model isn't a one-off. It's built to extend across more schools and regions: volunteer expertise, real fabrication capability, and mentorship rooted in actual engineering problems.

We provide a full suite of engineering support, from design to fabrication to data analysis. Every school gets the same access to professional-grade tools and guidance, so students can learn and compete on equal footing.



Volunteer Expertise
Professional engineering & technical skill, donated.



Fabrication Access
Electronics, prototyping & custom chassis fabrication, hands-on.



Design Mentorship
Real-world problem solving, guided by makers.



Open Source, Always
Every design we build is released publicly, so unsponsored schools get the same tech.

\$100k+

PRO-BONO VALUE PROVIDED ON FIRST SUPPORTED SCHOOL ALONE

Students got hands-on with systems most primary schools never touch.

Teachers walked away with tools and data they keep using in class.



“THE ATTACKER” & “THE HACKER” – PLEASANT STREET PRIMARY BUILD

This isn't just a build. It's capability that keeps paying off long after race day.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

What students actually learn

This program goes far beyond “building a car.”



Mechanical Design & Aerodynamics



Electronics & Embedded Systems



Sensor Integration



Data Collection & Analysis



Iterative Design



Teamwork, Safety & Planning

Live telemetry goes straight to drivers and pit crews, then gets logged for post-event analysis. It feeds directly into:

SCIENCE

MATHEMATICS

DIGITAL TECH

CRITICAL THINKING



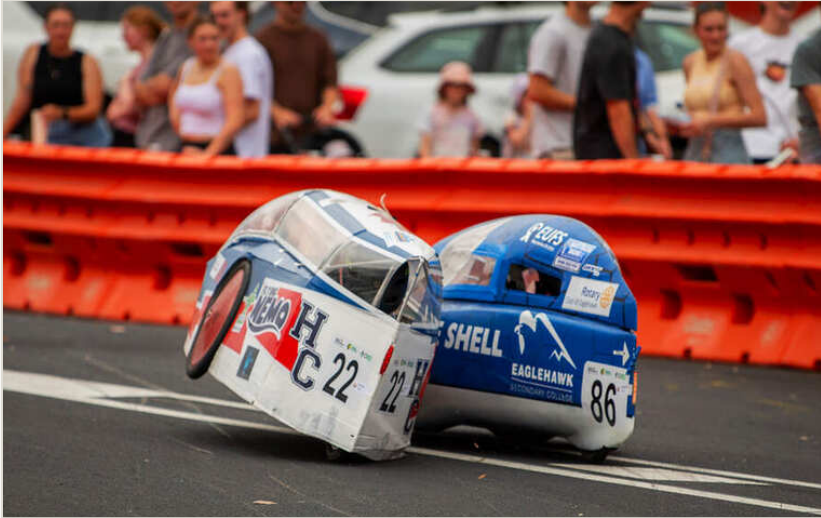
WHY SPONSORSHIP MATTERS

While expertise is donated, materials are not free.

As we support more schools, material costs climb. Sponsorship covers what donated expertise can't:

- 01 Sensors, electronics, wiring, displays
- 02 Structural materials & safety improvements
- 03 Fabrication consumables
- 04 Upgrades to stay competitive & compliant

SUSTAINABLE EQUITABLE SCALABLE



STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY GETS TESTED ON THE COURSE, NOT ON PAPER.

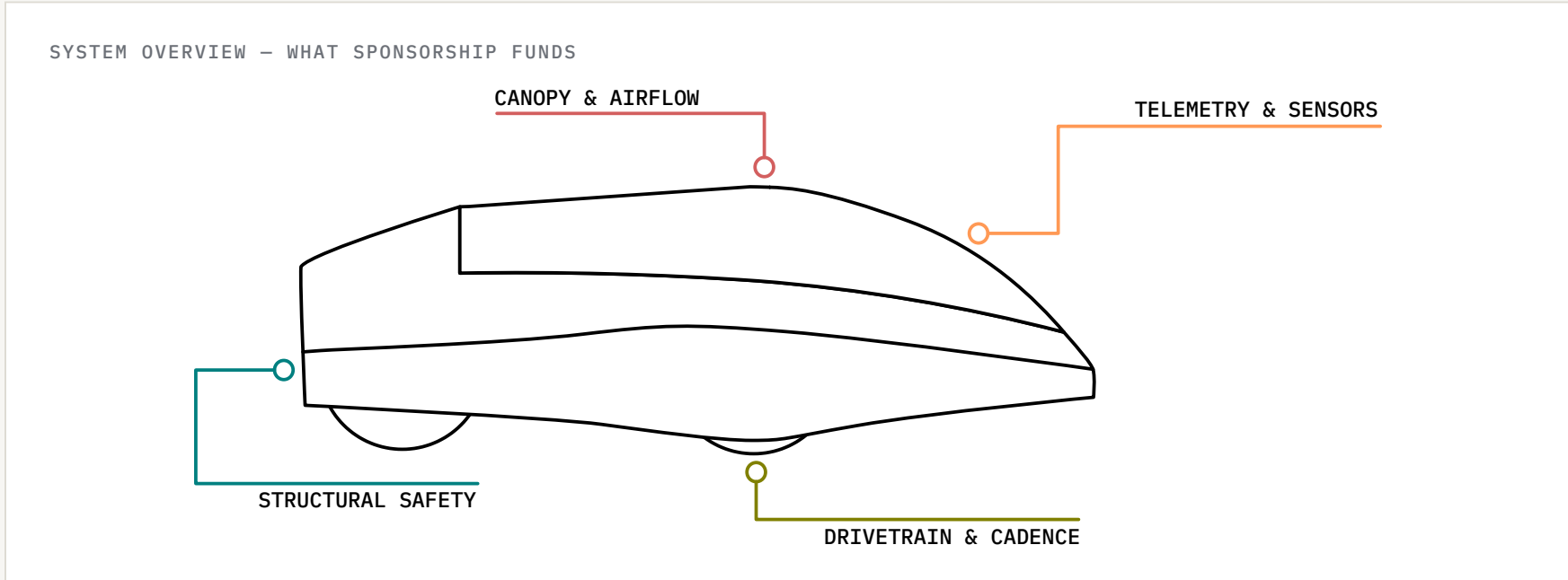
WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP ENABLES

All systems built by Ballarat Hackerspace are **modular, vehicle-agnostic, and reusable** across nearly all Energy Breakthrough teams and future events.

Every sponsorship dollar buys long-term engineering capability. Not a one-off build.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

For the largest supplier of commercial off-the-shelf vehicles, we design after-market replacement chassis skeletons at a fraction of the original cost. They can be reskinned repeatedly using coreflute or similar materials, extending the usable life of equipment schools have already purchased.





SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Choose your level of impact

Every tier funds real capability, from safety-critical consumables to full telemetry systems.

Supporting Partner
\$1,000 – \$5,000

ENABLES SAFE PARTICIPATION

SUPPORTS

- Consumables, wiring, fasteners, safety improvements

ENABLES

1–4 modular vehicle upgrades

- Rider airflow & canopy improvements
- Maintenance access enhancements
- Safety & ergonomics upgrades

RECOGNITION

- Logo on sponsor board & digital acknowledgements
- Certificate of support (ESG-ready)

Deployable across multiple school vehicles, whenever needed.

Technology Partner
\$5,000 – \$10,000

ENABLES COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCE

SUPPORTS

- Electronics, sensors, fabrication materials
- Data systems & displays

ENABLES

2–4 full telemetry packages

- Pedal cadence, speed, IMU & GPS sensing
- Embedded microcontroller system
- Heads-up display & pit telemetry
- Onboard data logging

RECOGNITION

- Logo on vehicle & pit display
- Acknowledgement in media & school communications

Includes invitation to a workshop visit or test day.

Principal Partner
\$10,000+
MOST IMPACT

ENABLES INNOVATION AT SCALE

SUPPORTS

- Major vehicle & telemetry upgrades
- Expansion of the program to additional schools

ENABLES

- Multiple telemetry / control deployments, or
- New-school expansion: hardware, integration, and knowledge transfer

RECOGNITION

- Prominent branding on vehicle, canopy & displays
- Co-branded “STEM in Action” storytelling pack
- Optional engagement session at Ballarat Hackerspace

Helps us scale this model past a single school.

In-kind support works too. Send materials, components, or services, and we’ll map them to the tier above.



SPONSOR BRANDING RIDES INTO EVERY RACE: ON THE VEHICLE, IN THE PIT, ON THE PODIUM.



“This isn’t passive sponsorship. It’s visible, measurable, and human.”

WHY PARTNER WITH US

What sponsors gain

- Real STEM impact, not just a logo on a page
- Visibility at one of Victoria’s biggest STEM events
- Proof you back community and education, not just marketing
- Early contact with the engineers, makers & problem-solvers of tomorrow

OUR VISION

A network built to scale

A community-led support network for schools across Victoria, so any team can compete in Energy Breakthrough and similar STEM challenges. Funding shouldn’t decide who gets to play.

IMPACT & MEASUREMENT

Capability units, not one-off builds

Every system we build is modular and vehicle-agnostic, so we track funding in **capability units** instead of one-off builds. Each unit gets deployed across multiple vehicles, reused for years, and folded into classroom learning long after race day.

WHAT WE TRACK

MODULAR UPGRADES DELIVERED	COSTS SAVED AVOIDING OBSOLESCENCE	TEAMS SUPPORTED	CURRICULUM AREAS SUPPORTED
STUDENTS ENGAGED	PRO-BONO COST SAVINGS TO SCHOOLS		

Let’s build the next breakthrough together.

sponsors@ballarathackerspace.org.au

