

The Students' Perspective Merici College, Canberra

AAA invited a group of senior school students from Canberra's Merici College to attend the Climate Change summit, *On the Road to Greener Motoring*. Following are articles from two of the students on their impressions of the summit.



Merici College students attending the AAA Climate Change summit: (l to r) Angela Cibiras, Jacinta Richardson, Aishwaryya Balajla, Hannah Griffiths, Isabelle Webster and Jennifer Darmody.

As I read the newspaper this morning I noticed an article about the ever rising petrol prices and today's record high crude oil price. After attending the Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) Road to Greener Motoring summit this made a lot more sense to me and the discussion of the past, present and future of cars and travel in general.

The rising price of petrol and the amount of emissions being produced have intensified the need for greener, more efficient cars and travel. The summit discussed the different variations and possibilities for the future of the car industry. A particular stand out was Phil Westlake who shed light on the current uses and availability of LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) and how it was 'the quiet achiever' within the fuel market. Although this was an interesting revelation it alone cannot solve the increasing global temperature.

This summit has helped my understanding of the direction in which climate change and the earth is headed while still acknowledging the need people have to travel.

The discussion of possible ideas for the future was interesting as in 2050 we will be the people who are making the decisions and having to live with the consequences of the choices of the generations before us.

The summit provided an opportunity for us as students to see how the future may turn out and in which direction the world is headed as the technology improves rapidly each and every year. The issues facing the world today are what shape our future, in particular, the rising of the temperature of the earth could affect our lives severely.

As mentioned at the beginning of the summit the world wants to harness the benefits of cars while reducing the issues they cause. This summit was a good start on the steps towards a greener earth that can last long into the future. Initiatives need to be taken now to ensure our future.

Jacinta Donaldson
Year 12
Merici College

Cars and travelling have been an integral part of my life, of my parents' lives and in the lives of generations to come. Mobility is an important aspect of our lives as we need to travel to get to work, to school, to sport and go on holidays.

Cars have enabled us to become more mobile. However, with the rise of petrol prices and of the global temperature, we are now seeing the costs of their use.

The summit present by the AAA addressed this issue of sustainable mobility. By putting into action the plans that the motoring groups and the governments have created, we will one day be able to reduce the impact of our vehicular footprint on the environment.

The summit presented us with many highly-qualified speakers with plans for addressing this issue. A lot of the ideas that were presented for making our mobility sustainable seemed like common sense. These were ideas, such as using triple-B trucks to do one job instead of sending two semi-trailers, and addressing the issue of traffic congestion.

Alternative fuels were also a major point within the summit. The level of science behind these fuels was a lot more than I expected, and as the technology improves our options of alternative fuels will increase. Currently, the goal is to create the technology to harness hydrogen as a fuel source.

Being one of the youngest people at the summit was a good thing. There were people talking to us who have spent a large amount of their careers dedicated to the research, the collection of data, and to understand the issue of sustainable mobility.

The information that was expressed will be made public through the many motoring organisations that were present, and the information I gained will influence my motoring choices for the rest of my life.

Angela Cibiras
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