YESTERDAY the Tailem Bend Mitsubishi test track got a taste for what is ahead as university students warmed-up for the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia competition.

The competition, which began today, sees 21 Universities from all over the world compete in areas of design, building and competing in a small high-performance race car for the next four days.

According to SAE executive director Stuart Charity the teams develop a car aimed at the amateur autocross driver market, which could be manufactured on a small-scale production line at a cost of less than $50,000.

Yesterday competitors were warming up with cars racing around the tracks at high-speeds and testing endurance.

Today will be registration and a welcome barbecue for people competing.

On Friday there will be static events with design, cost, presentation and scrutineering on the agenda.

Saturday will showcase the dynamic events such as acceleration, skid pad and autocross racing.

Finally on Sunday will be the endurance event, with heats beginning in the morning.

Presentations of the winners will be on site after the endurance event.

The public is welcome to attend from 9am to 5pm from Friday through to Sunday for an entry fee of $10 for adults and $5 for children.

COMMUNITY Health Adolescent Murraylands Peer Support forums for young people had their final celebration of 2003 at Edwards Crossing Community House on Wednesday night.

As the year comes to an end there were many achievements to celebrate including eight youth forums, the regional youth camp, a regional youth newspaper and school based workshops.

The Youth Festival in April was a big highlight — it is now time for Murraylands youth services to move forward.

As part of this, they have decided to move out of The Hangout — a temporary provision contributed by the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Murray Mallee Community Health Service youth workers Rose Bowswell and Kerry May said while it was disappointing to be leaving the colorfully designed hang out, it was also exciting to think of what was to come.

“It will be an exciting new chapter for the youth in the Murray Mallee,” Ms Bowswell said.

There are currently pre-emptive discussions among interested youth organisations in the region to decide on the best direction for young people.

“We are aiming to provide a realistic outcome for youth issues ... and empower youth,” Ms Bowswell said.

“We want to help the youth to recognise that they are a valuable part of the community ... and give them a sense of belonging,” MMCCHS director Vic Hazel and Rural City of Murray Bridge human services manager David Wade will be meeting the youth forum to talk about a future direction for youth services, including the need for premises.

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