



## **RTAA SUPPORTS UNSW'S GREAT ENGINEERING CHALLENGE 2014**

As part of Australian Engineering Week 2014, the RTAA was a proud sponsor and participant in the Great Engineering Challenge hosted by the University of NSW (UNSW) on 6 August.

The aim of this annual event is to inform, inspire and provide insight into the engineering profession to years 10 and 11 high school students. As the engineers of the future, students were invited from schools across Sydney.

Participation in the event is consistent with the RTAA's Strategic Plan 2014-17 and one of the key priorities – to broaden the appeal of rail to young people.

The event was a great success, with 191 enthusiastic and lively students from 28 schools participating. Feedback was also very positive with several teachers and students praising the efforts of the Great Engineering Challenge Team, and the inspirational presentation delivered by Jonathan Barnes of Sydney Trains. Jonathan is also a RTAA management committee member and champion of young people in rail.

“It still shames me a little that whenever I present at forums like this, my first slides show in big bold letters, railway engineers don't drive trains. I do believe that this message is finally getting out there. I was fortunate to be asked to represent the RTAA at the event and speak to the school kids about the railway industry and the many interesting and challenging career paths available”, said Jonathan. “At the conclusion of this event, it was my great privilege to be asked to present the award to the RTAA challenge winning team – Birrong Girls High. What chuffed me most was overhearing a youngster, when leaving the auditorium say, wasn't that young guy cool?”

Christopher Cheong, Event Coordinator, expressed his personal thanks to the RTAA for their silver sponsorship of the event. “Your support has greatly helped the Great Engineering Challenge 2014 and all the teachers and students that attended. We hope we are able to strengthen our relationship and continue with your support in 2015 and future endeavours.

**A Big Thank You from the Great Engineering Challenge 2014 Team”**