



Dec 27, 2001 - Jan 19, 2002

***Around Australia Challenge Update
- DAY 1: Thurs 27-Dec-2001 -***

***Melbourne (Vic)
to Yass (N.S.W.)***

623 KM



The Aurora team members undertaking the round Australia journey assembled at Parliament House steps in Melbourne from 7.15 AM. Before long they had a group of well-wishers, friends, and members of the media and the public in attendance.

Final checks of the support cars, the solar car telemetry and electronics and team seating assignments were completed in readiness for the send off.

John Modra, a member of the Victorian Government's Department of Manufacturing and himself a strong supporter of the Aurora program flagged the superb Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car away at 8.15 AM on the start of its epic journey of nearly 13000 KM.

The convoy of three support cars, two trailers and the solar car itself took Collins Street to Spencer Street to Flinders Street and then the West Gate bridge to the Hume Highway heading towards Albury. Significantly the start of this journey passed the premises of the Victorian Government, 101 Collins Street, Minter Ellison at the Rialto Towers and Ford Australia at Campbellfield all Foundation Supporters of the Aurora activities in 2002-02.

Cloudy weather marked the morning trip to Albury requiring use of some battery power. Scheduled stops were made at Glenrowan and



Day 1, Glenrowan (click for a larger image)



Day 1, Holbrook (click for a larger image)



Holbrook where the news of the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car's passing attracted inquisitive crowds. After Albury the weather became perfect for solar power and Aurora maintained speeds of 90-100 KPH.

The team arrived at Yass by 5.15 PM having covered 603 KM at an average speed of about 75 KPH. The day's driving duties were shared by Tony Vriens and Rafael Carmona. Other team members supporting the journey are Theresa Dolman, Andrew Lamb, Jack and Damien McArthur, Peter Pudney, Sylvia Seldon, Dennis Thoroughgood and Cecilia Zolla. For seven of this group this is the first event they have had with the Aurora-RMIT solar car. Tony, Andrew and Peter provide the core of prior experience for the team.

Day 2 is intended to have the team pass through and around Sydney where major bush fires are widespread and some roads are reported to be closed.

Day 1, John Modra practices his starting technique (click for a larger image)



Day 1, Aurora-RMIT 101 ready to go (click for a larger image)



Day 1, A 'local' at Glenrowan speaks to Tony Vriens (click for a larger image)