



***Around Australia Challenge Update
- DAY 2: Fri 28-Dec-2001 -***

***Yass (N.S.W.) to
Buladelah (N.S.W.)***

523 KM



After a good night's sleep at the Yass Caravan Park and a solid charge from the early sunlight the Aurora-RMIT 101 team rolled out of Yass at 9.00 AM. Clear conditions had the team reach the first scheduled stop at Mittagong where many spectators greeted them. Local radio and newspaper coverage ensured that many of the public knew of the record attempt. In Melbourne two TV stations and the Herald Sun newspaper had covered the departure the previous day.

An alternative route around Sydney was taken via Liverpool and Hornsby before reaching the expressway to Newcastle. The New South Wales bushfires left a cloud of smoke extending up to 70 kilometers cutting the sunlight available for the solar panels and slowing the speeds.

Finally the team reached its second stop at Wyong only to face difficulties with the draw-bar of the solar car trailer. Some quick repairs were needed. Rafael was in the driver's seat through a holiday traffic jam north of Raymond Terrace but dealt with this in true Mexican style....by breaking into song . Cielito Lindo was the tune, meaning 'pretty sky' which did describe the conditions coming into the overnight stop in Buladelah. Sylvia Seldon is quickly mastering the telemetry work in the lead car but did not record the music.



Day 2, Bulahdelah caravan park
(click for a larger image)



Day 2, Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car at Mittagong information centre
(click for a larger image)

During the day the front wheelmotor reached 85 degrees centigrade through the traffic jam but returned to normal temperatures when the speeds improved.

A total distance of about 560 KM was covered on Day 2 for an average running speed, excluding stops of about 75 KPH similar to Day 1.

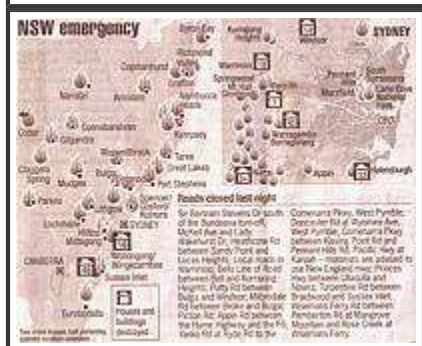
The cooks, Theresa and Cecilia say stir fried beef is on the menu at the Alum Mountain Caravan Park in Buladelah before taking on the big hill-climb tomorrow. Some 623 KM will see the team reach Tweed Heads on the Queensland border at the end of Day 3.



Day 2, Rafael Carmona prepares for his driving session (click for a larger image)



Day 2, Smoke filled skies (click for a larger image)



Day 2, The NSW bushfire calamity (click for a larger image)