



**Around Australia Challenge Update
- DAY 5: Mon 31-Dec-2001 -**

Gin Gin (QLD) to Rockhampton (QLD)	283 KM
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Continuing weather difficulties and resultant electrical problems with the solar car frustrated the Aurora-RMIT 101 team on Day 5. Morning cloud finally broke after 9.00 AM and helped to get some charge into the batteries before the convoy moved off at 12.30PM AEST. [11.30 AM Queensland time]

The telemetry antenna worked intermittently so travel by educated guess-work was required and delivered by Peter Pudney. Other electrical shorts occurred several times as water bridged the solar panels to the car's carbon fibre structure. Several stops were necessary to avoid heavy downpours. More serious water-proofing work was planned for the evening stop which considering the late start was to be Rockhampton, a planned day distance of 270 KM.

Central Queensland University are the present owners of one of Aurora's 1993 solar cars. This was sold to Lake Tuggeranong College in Canberra. They had refurbished the car and raced it successfully to 16th place in the 1996 World Solar Challenge before the selling the car to Central Queensland University who raced in the 1999 WSC. They finished in 21st place in that event.

The trailer repairs seem to have been accomplished successfully with the axle now mounted below the springs and 3 new light



Day 5, Waiting for the sun to emerge, Gin Gin caravan park [click for a larger image](#))



Day 5, Waiting for the rain to stop, near Mount Larcom [click for a larger image](#))

truck tyres purchased. There's plenty of ground clearance.

New Years Eve in Rockhampton was a wet one with the team taking shelter in the main trailer. The reported that it was excellent weather for frogs. A really soaking night.



Day 5 New Year's Eve soaked at Rockhampton. [click for a larger image](#))



Day 5 Jack and Damien McArthur. [click for a larger image](#))