



***Around Australia Challenge Update
- DAY 6: Tues 1-Jan-2002 -***

<i>Rockhampton (QLD) to Mackay (QLD)</i>	<i>344 KM</i>
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New Year's Day saw the team busy on electrical waterproofing in the morning and attempting to get some battery charge going. Media coverage continued with a nation-wide interview on ABC radio with Martin Powley from the mid NSW station at Kempsey. Andrew Lamb explained the Challenge and the reasons that Aurora-RMIT 101 was undertaking it. A number of calls from interested listeners followed mainly asking about where on the route they could see the solar car pass by.

Aurora left Rockhampton at 12.20 AEST and ran on reduced solar power for the 335 KM planned for the day to reach Mackay. Two solar panels were disconnected until waterproofing repairs could be achieved in Mackay.

A media welcome in Mackay by Channel 7 and the Daily Mercury newspaper have been organised by Bill Boyd the medical officer for the World Solar Challenge event.

Bradley Cadwallader and Andrew Lamb have now completed their time with the team and headed south to Brisbane. Nine team members are travelling on.

Mackay was reached at 5.20 AEST so the average running speed for the day was about 67 KPH.

At this point the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car has



Day 6, Aurora-RMIT 101 in the Australian tropics
(click for a larger image)



Day 6, The team drying out at Rockhampton. (click for a larger image)

travelled about 2940 KM since leaving Melbourne on 27 December 2001, a distance just 70 KM short of the WSC.

The team plans to resume the schedule tomorrow, weather permitting, moving from Mackay to Bowen, Townsville then west to Pentland.