



**Around Australia Challenge Update  
- DAY 11: Sun 6-Jan-2002 -**

**Renner Springs (NT) to  
roadside camp, 100 KM before Victoria River (NT)**

**589 KM**



The cloudy weather continued to dictate slow travelling. The previous day saw about one hour of clear sun in the total day as the effects of tropical cyclone 'Bernie' and the low pressure system backing in behind it were experienced. This part of the Around Australia Challenge has always been considered to be the most risky with some chance that the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car team could be stuck in rain and flood conditions for days on end.

So Day 11 conditions were again frustrating as the team set off again aiming to make up the schedule by arriving in Broome on Day 13 or Day 14.

The majority of the day was spent on the Stuart Highway heading north to Katherine. The World Solar Challenge designates Katherine as the first mandatory media stop and the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car passed through there on 18 November heading south. At that stage it held third place in the WSC just 5 minutes behind Michigan and Alpha Centauri.

At Katherine the team turned south-west again on the Victoria Highway heading towards Kununurra and Fitzroy Crossing and finally Broome.

A late afternoon rain-storm stopped the team 120 KM beyond Katherine and about 100 KM before reaching Victoria River. No town, no



Day 11 Return to Dunmarra, last visited 18 November 2001. (click for a larger image)



Day 11, Monsoon season, Scott Creek. (click for a larger image)



Day 11 Perfect solar car weather, Scott Creek. (click for a larger image)

caravan park and no electricity. Just the open road.

Out came the generator and in went the spotlights in the support trailer for a genuine outback experience.

The stopping by the side of the road is the way of the World Solar Challenge. The event rules require that all teams stop in the time between 5.00 PM and 5.10 PM irrespective of where the team is along the Stuart Highway. The logistics required to manage a WSC team on the road are immense and add somewhat to the complexity of the event.

Lead driver Tony Vriens reported that dinner was excellent; beef and mushroom stir fry with trimmings. The team providers Theresa Dolman and Cecilia Zolla have been doing an excellent job!

Jack McArthur undertook to repair the speed control 'pot' which is suffering from mounting misalignment. The 'pot' or potentiometer is the device used to control the vehicle speed. Like the accelerator pedal of a car but instead it is operated by hand. The Aurora solar car has no foot operated controls. Replacement parts have been sent to Broome Post Office by Andrew Lamb.

Broome will be a distance of 7097 KM from Melbourne and when they arrive the team will have exceeded the world record solar car journey distance achieved by the Queens University team from Canada in 200 which stands at 7043.5 KM. This is one of the big objectives of the Around Australia Challenge for the Aurora-RMIT 101 team. In finishing the total trip Aurora will push this world record to nearly 13000 KM.

The total distance achieved on Day 11 was 595 KM.



Day 11, After the storm, Scott Creek. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 11 Cecilia Zolla, our Mexican photographer. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)