



**Around Australia Challenge Update  
- DAY 12: Mon 7-Jan-2002 -**

**Roadside camp, 100 KM before Victoria River (NT)  
to Turkey Creek (WA)**

**641 KM**



As the rest of Australia was returning to work at the end of the Christmas-New Year break the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car team completed its twelfth day on the road. It spent the night around the Kimberleys or about as far away from its home base in Melbourne, Victoria as you can get and still remain in Australia.

Day 12 saw the team cover 641 KM, equal to Day 7 which stood as the best day so far. Starting from the overnight roadside camp at Scott Creek the team welcomed sunnier conditions and picked up speed to around 80 KPH. Road conditions caused most of the incidents on Day 12.

A 6 KM stretch of road works and a rough detour caused three punctured tyres before the road crew took sympathy and allowed the convoy to travel on the freshly made section. Water in a floodway at 50 MM depth caused the team to travel with great caution in order to avoid any further water damage to the finely tuned electrical system.

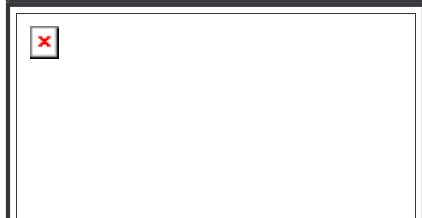
Late afternoon showers and the sighting of a caravan park with showers at Turkey Creek had the Aurora-RMIT 101 team decide to stop for the night at 4.45PM West Australia time. [WA time is 3 hours behind Melbourne time] This gave them the opportunity to repair two damaged amplifiers in the telemetry system and fully restore accurate readings in the



Day 12, Flat tyre. (click for a larger image)



Day 12 Aurora in long grass awaiting a tyre change. (click for a larger image)



Day 12 The three puncture detour. (click for a larger image)

control car leading the convoy. Telemetry is an extremely important piece of equipment in the solar car. The MoTeC system used in the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car provides many channels of information which can be seen in real time on the computer located in the convoy leading Ford Fairmont. This reports on solar power by panel on a variety of in car temperatures and on the state of the battery. Frequent cross checks are made with the other computer in the lead car which has a prediction of how the solar should be travelling in order to get the maximum distance for the day. The comparisons then allow the strategist to direct the solar car driver as to what speed is to be maintained.

It now seems that Broome will be reached late morning on Day 14, giving the team only a half day rest stop before maintaining the schedule and pushing on south towards Perth. Still Broome is over half way on the Around Australia Challenge.



Day 12 WA-NT border quarantine station; onions gone. (click for a larger image)



Day 12 Floodway crossing #1. (click for a larger image)