



Around Australia Challenge Update
DAY 23: Fri 18-Jan-2002

Port Augusta (SA) to Bordertown (SA)	594 KM
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The weather forecast for Adelaide was hot, 33 C. Also Melbourne was warming up. So guess what it was like in Port Augusta as the team woke up looking for a battery charge. Cloudy!

The midday welcome in Adelaide city pushed the Aurora-RMIT 101 team to get on the road early with almost flat batteries and hope to catch some morning sun. A speed of 40 KPH was all that could be undertaken.

Slow progress was made up to Port Wakefield before reasonable sun was available and after the driver change progress improved. This was where the Aurora-RMIT 101 team made their final overnight stop on 21 November in the 2001 World Solar Challenge. The winning car Alpha Centauri made a dash for the finish line outside of Adelaide and got there about 5.10 PM, breaking Honda's race record and creating a new day distance record for the WSC at 813 KM. A great performance!

The Adelaide Town Hall was reached at 12.50 PM and the team were greeted by many people but were delighted to meet Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, the Deputy Lord Mayor and Chris Selwood the Director of the World Solar Challenge event.

The early afternoon was spent playing soccer in a near city park whilst the solar car absorbed some sunshine in preparation for the steep climb out of town in the Adelaide Hills.



Day 23, Food stop - Adelaide Hills (SA). [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 23, Soccer while the batteries charge up - Adelaide. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 23, Welcomed in Adelaide

Peter Pudney, so familiar with Adelaide because he lives there, directed that the solar car take the old road through the hills just in case there was a vehicle problem. But the reliability of this solar car was again noted as the climb was done using only 1 amp hour of energy even the motor temperature reached 103 C. One thing that helps in climbing hills is that there is also going down hills. The solar car wheelmotor is set up to become a generator when rolling downhill so some of the energy is recovered . This feature is called regenerative braking.

Once back on the main highway speeds picked up and the team were able to go further than intended by reaching Bordertown rather than the intended stop at Keith. This was genuinely 'ahead of schedule'. Bordertown is famous because it is the birthplace of one of Australia's most colourful Labor Prime Ministers. A distance of 594 KM was completed on Day 23 for a total so far of 12581 KM.

Day 24 tomorrow is planned to be the final day of the Around Australia Challenge with stops arranged for Horsham and Ballarat before a 5.00 PM completion at Parliament House Steps in Melbourne.

by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 23, Welcoming party in Adelaide. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 23, Peter Pudney calls his friends in Adelaide. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)