



Around Australia Challenge Update
DAY 24: Sat 19-Jan-2002

Bordertown (SA) to Melbourne (VIC)

473 KM
(Mission Complete!)



No cloud! Really?? This was the most perfect solar car day of the whole trip around Australia with less than 500 KM left to reach the finish in Melbourne. Actually the temperatures, rising to mid to high 30s are not so ideal. Solar cells respond to sunlight not heat. In fact they become less efficient as temperatures rise. Aurora now uses gallium arsenide solar cells which lose less efficiency than silicon solar cells as temperatures rise.

The morning charge session was excellent with 9 amp-hours of energy being collected.

Just past Bordertown the Aurora-RMIT 101 team slipped into our home state of Victoria and a finish in Melbourne on time looked pretty certain. Roadworks in Nhill slowed the progress for a couple of kilometers and it was on to Horsham.

Jack McArthur definitely has connections in the Horsham-Hamilton area and about 80 people were there to meet the team. The Horsham radio station and newspaper gave the team great support and banners welcoming the 'achievers' to Horsham were evident. Another change was needed for the 'pot' ; definitely a repair coming up.

The final stop was Ballarat. The temperatures reached the high 30s and in the solar car itself the readings reached 46 C.



Day 24, Leaving Bordertown (SA). (click for a larger image)



Day 24, 5:15PM -Parliament House, Melbourne. (click for a larger image)



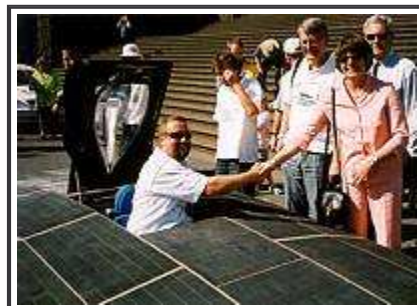
The final leg down the Western Ring Road and across the Westgate Bridge saw the team ahead of schedule so a 'sponsors' stop was called at the service centre at Todd Road before the trip through downtown Melbourne.

At 5.15 PM on the 24th day of this spectacular journey the Aurora-RMIT 101 finished at Parliament House steps, surrounded by well-wishers family members and wedding photographers.

The Vice Chancellor of RMIT University, Ruth Dunkin, greeted the team members as well as Barry Moncur representing the Victorian Government. We were also really pleased to see other sponsors from RJ Pound Services, Koni Topformance, Schenker, and Bosch at the finish line.

John Hoerner and his wife Alison Waters, organisers of the AGO Sunrace event which will see the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar competing, were present congratulating the team.

At the RMIT sponsored celebration dinner that evening there were many stories to tell. A small confession was made by Theresa Dolman who drove the lead car all trip; she had broken a fingernail helping to lift the solar array near Broome. We are pleased and relieved that this great adventure has been completed safely, with such outstanding achievements and right on the promised schedule. Already the congratulations are coming in.



Day 24, Ruth Dunkin congratulates world's most accomplished solar car driver, Tony Vriens. (click for a larger image)

Day 24, They got it right in Horsham, Victoria. (click for a larger image)



Day 24, Theresa did damage 1 nail! (click for a larger image)



Day 24, Vice Chancellor, RMIT, Ruth Dunkin greets post-grad Rafael Carmona and Cecilia Zolla. (click for a larger image)



Day 24, Finish at the "wedding steps", Parliament House, Melbourne. (click for a larger image)



Day 24, A pair of 2 horse power machines. (click for a larger image)





Day 24, The distance record -
13,054 km - ALL DONE!! (click for
a larger image)