

# SunRace 2003



## Daily Report

Day 2 - Sunday 16th February, 2003

Cloudy conditions greeted the field as they woke up in Peterborough on Day 2 on Sunrace 2003. This was good news for the pure electric cars headed by the blue Chisholm entry. Their quiet spoken leader Don Elliott could hardly contain his delight. Not so good for the solar cars though.

The RMIT team leader Dennis Thoroughgood had worked most of the night trying to repair a broken voltage sensor in the telemetry system of the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car but needs a new component. RMIT staffer Lynda Gilbert (who is Aurora's membership officer) tried all day to find a suitable part in Melbourne without success so Monday the search will start again.



Peterborough Mayor Ruth Wittle flags away Aurora RMIT 101 at the start of SunRace 2003 Day two

The RMIT led the field out of Peterborough to head to the first stop at Yunta. Conservation of the battery saw the first driver Marko Levatic rarely exceed 60 kph. As a result three other entrants passed them in this leg and at Yunta the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car was behind Chisholm, Bushie [in a previous Chisholm streamliner], and UNSW.

Improving weather conditions around mid-day had the black Aurora solar car picking up speed and coming into Olary in second place only 3.5 minutes behind Chisholm.

Stella Ngondi drove the final long leg to Broken Hill reaching the 110kph speed limit frequently. The RMIT team was very pleased to pass the Chisholm electric car early on this leg finally arriving in Broken Hill about 5 minutes ahead of Chisholm and 30 minutes ahead of UNSW.



Driver Stella Ngondi complete with Union Jack bandana

Cloud covered Broken Hill and battery charge looks like being a problem for Day 3 in the planned run to Mildura. If a spare voltage sensor can be found in the morning then Lynda Gilbert plans to drive it to Mildura so the telemetry unit can be repaired. She will also deliver the second wheel-motor which Dave Wynne repaired on Saturday and a few more tyres.



UNSW Sunswift sets a cracking pace in pursuit of 'Blue International Eagle' and 'Aurora RMIT 101'

The RMIT team has a single sponsor for this participation in Sunrace 2003. It is a company called Essenhawk who are commercialising the RMIT developed superbike to be named 'Technique'. Support cars and team shirts recognise this timely sponsorship.