

SunRace 2003



Daily Report

Day 3 - Monday 17th February, 2003

The final official performance on the road on Day 2 saw the RMIT team slightly ahead of Chisholm and well ahead of UNSW. The official cumulative positions after Day 2 were as follows:

| | | | |
|---|----------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1 | Aurora RMIT | 529.1 km | 82.3 kph average speed |
| 2 | Chisholm | 529.1 km | 74.2 kph average speed |
| 3 | UNSW | 529.1 km | 65.2 kph average speed |
| 4 | Bushranger | 360.1 km | 62.8 kph average speed |
| 5 | Willyama | 360.1 km | 51.5 kph average speed |

On the morning of Day 3 Broken Hill turned some excellent sunshine enabling the solar cars to get a full battery charge for the 'downhill run' to Mildura. The road out of Broken Hill was quite bumpy and Kenyan student Stella Ngondi relinquished her driving stint to Marko Levatic. He took the solar car up to the 110 kph speed limit for most of the journey to the day's only stop at Coombah. RMIT arrived into Coombah first, some 15 minutes ahead of UNSW with Chisholm well behind. It was just one of those solar car days!

Stella resumed the drive on to Mildura at slightly slower speeds as some cloud prevailed. Again the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car was the first to arrive in Mildura and took out its third daily win. The final margin to UNSW was about 11 minutes so it will be close by the official margin. Chisholm was about one hour behind in third place. Great sunshine in Mildura has meant that a full battery charge has been possible for Aurora-RMIT 101.

The RMIT team was greeted in Mildura by local resident Brian Zrna who insisted on donating a case of drink and Mildura peaches to the team. Thank you!



Mildura's Julie Jewell flags the stage winner.
Aurora RMIT 101 takes line honours for the third successive day after battling cloud and a head wind from Broken Hill to Mildura

The team was boosted yesterday by the arrival of member Jack McArthur from Hamilton. Jack was able to reset the suspension and ride heights. Today Lynda Gilbert drove up from Melbourne to deliver the repaired wheel-motor and several more tyres. The telemetry system is not fixed yet but a new part will be available tomorrow in Charlton. The RMIT team has displayed great spirit and enthusiasm and are determined to do all they can to win Sunrace 2003. Many of the team members have been interviewed on regional media and have been able to publically thank their sponsor company Essenhawk.

The support convoy on the road consists of 3 vehicles. The leading vehicle is the Orbital Festiva which features a petrol sipping two stroke three cylinder Orbital motor. This is carrying four people. Driver Caroline Murphy is accompanied by navigator Carol Bates. In the back sit team race manager Dennis Thoroughgood and one of the solar car drivers.

In the Ford Fairmont follow car, which is also towing the tool trailer, is RMIT student Tom Baker. He is accompanied by Damien McArthur, safety officer Kon Kotsonis and a second solar car driver.

The final vehicle is the Ford sponsored Ford Courier pickup truck towing the main solar car trailer. This is being driven by team manager and Aurora Co Chairman, RMIT professor Ian Bates.



Professor Ian Bates guides a school group in Mildura