

# SunRace 2003



## Daily Report

Day 4 - Tuesday 18th February, 2003

It was a cold but clear morning in Mildura: the RMIT team's ally Brian Zrna organised a mission for lots of hot coffee but by 10.00 AM the team wanted to be gone.



Dawn in Mildura at the start of Day 4



Team Willyama start the day with inspirational aerobics with a plan to get the entire SunRace crew fit for a spectacular Melbourne finish on Day Five

First away, as on the previous three days, the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car slipped out of Mildura piloted by Danny Jutrisa. The telemetry system was still down so the drivers had to monitor the crucial battery voltage by using a supplementary gauge. Solar array power could not be measured, just the current delivered by the solar

cells.



Ultralite class electric vehicles line up for the "start" of the Day Four Mildura to Charlton leg of SunRace 2003

At the first stop in Ouyen the RMIT team already had a good lead on Chisholm with UNSW further back. Stella Ngondi took the second leg to Sealake at good speed. It is possible that this stretch was covered at an average speed of 100 kph.

The Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car was out of the Sealake checkpoint before any other entrant had arrived so the lead was at least half an hour. The final run to Charlton was faster again with the 110kph speed limit being the only impediment. RMIT arrived in Charlton at 2.45 PM and in hot windy and sunny conditions should have their battery full charged before sunset.

RMIT race manger Dennis Thoroughgood has been busy with the media particularly ABC radio. He has another interview at 9.00 AM Wednesday with regional ABC as the event passes near Maryborough.

Last night the RMIT team was able to assist the electric car team Willyama from Peterborough in the art of getting the best charge into their batteries.

Cumulative results up to Day 3 in Mildura have UNSW back in second place just ahead of Chiholm. RMIT with the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car have a comfortable lead and should lead the race into Melbourne on Wednesday afternoon. The event is expected to finish at the new museum in Carlton just after 2.00 PM where the Federal Minister for the Environment the Hon David Kemp will greet the incoming teams.

Cumulative Results after DAY 3, total distance 828.9 km:

- 1 RMIT 83.4 kph average speed
- 2 UNSW 69.7 kph average speed
- 3 CHISHOLM 69.3 kph average speed



Kon Kotsonis celebrates his 22nd birthday during Sunrace 2003