

SunRace 2003



Daily Report

Day 8 - Saturday 22nd February, 2003

Well it did rain overnight but at dawn there was a glimmer of real sunshine and both RMIT and UNSW teams were there to let it trickle into the batteries. The sun didn't last for long and given the battery consumption from the slow departure from Melbourne the Aurora- RMIT 101 solar car was in no shape to lead the field anywhere.



Senator Gary Humphries and SunRace Director John Hoerner at Canberra Questacon Day Eight start

Although the sky was covered in cloud the rain was holding off and race officials decided that it would be a race day after all. Shortly after 10.00 AM the entrants were flagged off from Questacon National Science Centre and the Chisholm electric car with its regulation full battery set took the lead and reached the first checkpoint at Marulan 30 minutes ahead of RMIT who were only 4 minutes ahead of UNSW.

Stella Ngondi took the controls of the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car for the next stage but in this section Chisholm went further ahead and UNSW passed RMIT to have a 12 minute lead at Pheasants Nest. In gloomy conditions where maximum solar power never exceeded 200 watts the entrants crept into Sydney later than planned. Chisholm won the day by about 30 minutes from UNSW who were another 30 minutes ahead of RMIT.

Official results will probably have RMIT as the overall winners with Chisholm second and UNSW third. This will be reported on in Day 9 which will see the race entrants officially finish at the Sydney Opera House.

