



## 2003 World Solar Challenge

Darwin > Adelaide 19 - 28 October 2003

**Report 6**  
Friday 17 October 2003

### Preparations for Competing in the 2003 World Solar Challenge

Today we spent most of the day at the Hidden Valley race track, tuning the suspension and making final preparations for our qualifying run tomorrow. There are quite a few teams testing their cars out at the track. Queens, Hans Go, MIT, Kelly and Principia are all moving very quickly along the straight. The order in which the cars start on Sunday will be determined tomorrow by the time taken for a flying lap of the track. This is different to previous years, when the starting order was determined by the top speed along the straight. It should be interesting, with four cars on the track at a time all aiming for a good position on the starting grid.



Southern Aurora also got in a few laps of the track. The Hamilton team have done a terrific job getting our old car going, and it is good to see it gliding along the road again.



This year, the event is featuring the "Greenfleet" class for experimental vehicles. Late in the afternoon South Bank University turned up at the track with their tiny E-Pod single-seater commuter car. Annesley College is back with an electric Barina, powered by a couple of small generators. There is also a bio-diesel bus and a diesel Astra.



Nuna and Queens were amongst the cars that were scrutineered today. The Nuna car is so loaded with solar cells that there was no space left for the event sticker. In the end it was placed over some of the less important cells on the side of the car. Nuna weighed in at 257kg, nearly 70kg heavier than Aurora 101, but they have a fantastic Gochermann solar panel. Queens have built a two-seater car which has four wheels and could have up to 12 square metres of solar panel. The car is quite fast--they achieved sixth position in the recent American Solar Challenge.



Bill Bennett, a recently recruited Aurora team member, arrived from Melbourne and will be part of the on-road team on the way to Adelaide. We will also be joined by Bonne Eggleston and David Snowden from the UNSW team, which has had to withdraw from the 2003 World Solar Challenge.

Towards the end of the day, team manager David and driver Stella laid down interviews for a documentary that is being made for this event. It is likely that a film crew will follow Aurora on our trip to Adelaide. The film crew is the same crew that made the film "Tomorrow's Sun" that followed OSU, Ned and Detlef Schmidt in the 1999 World Solar Challenge.

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