

Red Centre to White Ice for a Green Future

The Aurora 101 solar car tour of Tasmanian Schools: 15-19 March 2004

Thousands of Tasmanian school students are about to meet one of Australia's most technically advanced vehicles - the Aurora 101 Solar Car. Students of 12 Tasmanian schools - with the potential to study and work in the fields of electrical engineering, aerospace engineering, robotics and automation, renewable energy, hydro energy, solar energy, power line protection, and/or solar car efficiency - will be visited this week (15-19 March) by the Melbourne based Aurora 101 solar car and 4 Aurora team members.

Aurora 101's tour of Tasmania is made possible by Aurora Energy, TACC and The Spirit of Tasmania and will commence on Sunday, 14 March.

The team will also introduce Tasmania to Australia's most recognised symbol of the potential of solar energy at a number of other events, including the Hobart Sporting Car Club's 50th Anniversary Meeting at Baskerville (14th March), and will join a 1936 Ford vintage car in driving on roads used in the Targa Tasmania event - contrasting motoring's past and future - when solar cars may be the dominant entry.

The Aurora solar car team, together with New Town based Antarctic clothing designer and manufacturer, Aurora Designs will meet the Super Icebreaker and Antarctic supply/research ship, named after Mawson's own vessel, RSV Aurora Australis on March 15.

The Aurora team is especially pleased to bring the Aurora 101 solar car to Tasmania, as it was not able to include the island in its epic 24 day, 13,054 km Round Australia Challenge journey completed in 2002, as part of its world record setting longest continuous journey by a solar car.

The Aurora team will share with Tasmania its world renowned technology. The team has pioneered a new solar cell shingling process. A mix of solar cells from three different space programs cover its sleek black shape. Some of the cells were previously destined for use in the original Mars lander program. Aurora's specially developed high energy Kokam Lithium Polymer batteries, like the latest used in advanced mobile phones, achieve high energy density and efficient electrical flow. This effort to achieve high efficiency is matched in the Australian technologies in the CSIRO designed wheelmotor, the Tritium motor controller and AERL solar trackers.

The 64 member volunteer Aurora group, with Australia's most famous motor racing personality, Sir Jack Brabham, as its patron, is acknowledged as the world's most accomplished solar car team - holding 8 solar car world records including world records set by previous champions Honda (Japan), Biel (Switzerland) and Queens (Canada). The team has competed in all 7 World Solar Challenge events - a 4-5 day 3,000 km race from Darwin to Adelaide - becoming the Champions in 1999 and coming in a close second to the super Dutch team, Nuna, in 2001 and 2003. The team will return to Melbourne on 21 March before leaving on 6 April to represent Australia in the Phaethon 2004 Solar Car Rally, a 775 km journey from Athens through Ancient Olympia, as part of Greece's pre-Olympic cultural events, then travelling to Japan to compete in the Suzuka "Dream Cup", and on to Shanghai, China in a world showcase event of advanced technology cars - Bibendum in October.

Schools participating in Aurora Energy's Aurora 101 solar car tour of Tasmania

Mon	15-Mar	12:00pm	Woodbridge High School Channel Highway, Woodbridge 7162 6267 4667 (Chris Barnes 0438 060 712)
Mon	15-Mar	4:00 pm	University of Tasmania Faculty of Engineering
Tues	16-Mar	9:00 am	Elizabeth College 256 Elizabeth St, Hobart 7000 (Graeme Young 6235 6555)
Tues	16-Mar	11:00 am	The Friends School 23 Commercial Rd, North Hobart 7000 (Jim Laver 6210 2200)

Tues	16-Mar	1:00 pm	New Town High School 6 Midwood St, New Town 7008 (John Sheppard 6228 0257)
Wed	17-Mar	9:00 am	Brooks High School 215 Georgetown Rd, Rocherlea 7248 (Warren Pill 6326 1033)
Wed	17-Mar	11:00 am	Launceston TAFE Engineering Dept, Alanvale Alanvale Rd, Alanvale 7250 6336 4299 (Lester Lodge 6336 4235 David Merrington 6336 4257)
Wed	17-Mar	1.30 pm	Launceston College 107 -119 Paterson St 6332 7777 (Shon McIntee H 6336 4235 W 6332 7760)
Thur	18-Mar	1:00 pm	Don College Watkinson St Devonport 7310 6424 0200 (Craig Gilmore 6424 0212)
Fri	19-Mar	10:00 am	Ulverstone High School Leven St Ulverstone 7315 (Peter Snare 6425 1433)
Fri	19-Mar	1:00 pm	Hellyer College Mooreville Rd Burnie 7320 (Mike Brady: 6433 3)
Fri	19-Mar	3.30 pm	Burnie TAFE Mooreville Rd 7320 (Ron Sushames 6434 5889)

•