



15 - 19 March 2004

Report 4 - 17th March

In the darkness of 6.00am the small Aurora 101 team left the home of Mary Fewchuk in Taroona to make the trip to Launceston. Three appearance commitments lay ahead under the guidance of Stewart Sheppard from the marketing division of Aurora Energy.

It was a bright morning as we approached Launceston, and we drove straight through the city to the first stop at Brooks High School in Rocherlea. The crowd of students were waiting for the arrival of the Aurora 101 solar car, headed by a small group of enthusiastic Science and Technology teachers. This was a showcase high school with terrific facilities headed by headmaster Warren Pill. Some students had recently finished a balloon design project, with the best achieving a height of 36 metres.





Again students volunteered to sit in the drivers' seat and to even drive the car, but we kept that 'til last, doing some demonstration laps at the end of our visit. The hybrid car belonging to Aurora Energy attracted a lot of attention. It was good to see that this high school cared for a number of handicapped students who might have been excellent solar car drivers, considering all of the controls are by hand. At the end of this visit Kon did some quick laps in the car park really testing out our second motor fondly named Gertrude.



From Brooks High School we headed to another showcase educational facility at the Launceston TAFE in Alanvale. There we exhibited the solar car in the centre of their magnificent Automotive Training Facility supported by Aurora's sponsors, Automotive Training Australia (ATA). Two large groups of trade students were extremely attentive whilst the solar car's technology was explained. Only a few wanted to see a burnout. Terry Powell, State Manager for TAFE Tasmania immediately recognised team member Dennis Burns from previous displays of the Australian concept car. This TAFE college was extremely well kept and we did enjoy lunch in their well-equipped cafeteria before moving on to Launceston College in the centre of the city. In spite of our maps, Rob and Dennis got lost so we were later than scheduled at the college. As we arrived the photographer from the Launceston newspaper The Examiner took advantage of the crowd of students for tomorrow's newspaper. We suspect the pictures will feature a redheaded Latvian student who had plenty of personality. By 3.30pm we were on our way to our evening destination, Penny Royal Apartments which provided us more space to do test laps. As the entire trip has shown, heads were turning, cameras were out and we spent another hour explaining the solar car to other guests. This lengthy day finished with dinner in town with Aurora Energy staff members.



So far this Tasmanian experience has been outstanding. We look forward to Devonport tomorrow with one of the Targa Tasmania entries, a 1936 Ford Coupe and some test kilometres on part of the Targa Tasmania route.



