



15 - 19 March 2004

### Report 5 - 18th March

#### The Penny Royal

The morning delivery of The Examiner saw a story on the Aurora 101 visit to Launceston College featuring student Zanna Packane trying out the driver's seat. The start of the day was made complete when Dennis cooked The Big Breakfast: sausages, eggs, bacon, toast, cereal, fruit and fruit juice. It's no wonder we forgot the grapes, tomatoes and the milk when we checked out.





First stop was a return to Rocherlea to meet the staff of Aurora Energy's northern headquarters. A convenient large turning circle was available so Kon did his morning laps. Stewart Sheppard managed to talk Aurora's receptionist Fiona Hughes into tryin out the driver's position. We had no questions about where do the ladders go, and certainly none about where do the power poles go as we witnessed a trailer load of them being delivered to the depot.



We were soon off to our next appointment in Devonport, about 100km away to Don College. This was a good chance to travel at 110km/h on a fine highway leading to Devonport and Burnie. The only problem was that the solar car trailer threw a tread and had a major flat tyre. We were looking forward to meeting Devonport personality Graham Kent in his splendid 1936 V8 Ford Coupe, which he has entered in the forthcoming Targa Tasmania event. Lead teacher Craig Gilmore welcomed the small convoy into the school grounds. We now had a 1936 Ford, an Orbital engined Ford Festiva, and the Ford sponsored Aurora 101 solar car and the second generation Toyota Prius. Devonport's newspaper The Advocate came to photograph the solar car and the students to complete the story recorded earlier in the day with the Advocate reporter. Simon Parkin from Don College played the driver role in the photographs.



The day was completed by taking the Aurora 101 solar car and the 1936 Ford Coupe out on the Devonport Targa Tasmania route. Devilishly, Graham Kent started us on the road known as the Buster, and the Buster beat us. The initial long steep hill stopped us before we reached the top, so for the first time ever a tow rope was used on the solar car to crest the hill. After that it was a clear run, stopping for photographs of the solar car competing with the 1936 Ford. At one of our stops, local Harley Davidson rider (Geoff Creeley on a 1989 Heritage Softtail) stopped to examine the convoy.



After using a complete roll of film on the Targa Tasmania route, we loaded up the solar car for the trip to Burnie, where we are staying at the residential section of the Burnie TAFE. We are looking for dinner.



Tomorrow is the last official day of our Tasmania Experience. The better name for the week is “Tasmania-Headturning”.

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