

CHALLENGE BIBENDUM 2006



Report 4 11th June 2006

Today we drove into Paris to see the Bibendum Rally arrive at Champ de Mars, at the base of the Eiffel Tower. This was the event that Aurora 101 was intended to lead. Even with police escort, the Sunday morning traffic would have been a real test for our driver Kon and for the car. As the rally cars arrived they were individually introduced as they climbed the podium ramps, and the technologies explained. There was a large public gathering, as well as all of the participants and media. Despite the car not being there, we distributed most of the remaining Aurora 101 posters.

The new CEO of Michelin, Michel Rollier, toured the display at Champ de Mars, and completed his visit with a meeting with the Chinese delegates.



A Chinese electric bus completes the rally into Paris



A two-wheeled recumbent EV



Dave makes a new friend



Michael Quinton, from the SA Government, London office



The Ford team at the finish, somewhere in Paris



The new CEO of Michelin, Michel Rollier (right)



Theresa's sunscreen service

At midday, all of the vehicles started off on the return journey, through traffic jams, hot conditions, and with many of them low on energy. Thankfully, we had our GPS navigation system Diedre to help us find an alternative route through the outer suburbs of Paris. A unique feature of Paris is the parking system---you can park anywhere if you put your hazard lights on.



Parking in Paris

Back at CERAM, and after lunch, was the last of the ride and drive sessions and our last session on the Greenfleet stand in the Learning Centre. We had several important new visitors, including the Mayor of Clermont Ferrant, Serge Godard, Martin Winter from Tourism Adelaide, Jonathon Hawley (freelance writer for Wheels magazine) and David Berthon (Radio 2GB). Garry Wall from the Australian Federal Government also visited. He will be attending the Hydrogen conference in Lyon next week.



The Mayor of Clermont Ferrant, Serge Godard



Henry talking to Jacques Toraille from Michelin and Bjorn Stigson from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development



Garry Wall (centre), from the Australian Federal Government

This final day was the hottest, with temperature at about 35C.

The Energy Challenge has been very successful, but would have been even better if we had our car here. All that remains is for us to pack up our stand. Tomorrow we will take our trailer and display materials to Schenker for shipping back to Australia, and then in the evening attend the final presentation dinner at the Pavillion d'Armenonville. Then it is back to Australia, to start work on our new car.
