

Issue 37: July 2009

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MOON LANDING

On 20th July 1969 (21st in Australia), Apollo 11 with astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. It has been estimated that 600 million people across the world watched the video broadcast of the moon landing, making this the largest audience that any transmission has had to this day.



Forty years later we remember all the people who made this extraordinary achievement possible.

CSIRO PARKES OBSERVATORY OPEN DAYS



To celebrate Australia's involvement in the moon landing, the CSIRO Parkes Observatory will be hosting open days on the weekend of 18-19 July. The open days will showcase the achievements of the

Parkes Radio Telescope as a world-leading astronomical telescope as well as its roles in supporting some of the most significant space missions in history.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to tour the telescope or snuggle up in a sleeping bag for a screening of "The Dish".

When: 18 – 19th July 2009

Time: Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday night: 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Movie: Saturday 5:30 – 7:30pm

For more information visit www.parkes.atnf.csiro.au/news_events/open_days/2009/

CANBERRA DEEP SPACE COMMUNICATION COMPLEX

Ex-tracking staff and guests will attend 'Live from the Moon' at the



Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex on Monday 20th July 2009. This event will commemorate the historic first steps on the Moon in July 1969 and recognise the important role that the teams from Honeysuckle Creek, Tidbinbilla and Parkes played in the Apollo XI mission. This will also be a time to ceremonially farewell the 26-metre antenna Deep Space Station 46 (HSK's original DSS44 antenna) which will end its space tracking life in August 2009. A plaque will be unveiled in its honour.

SPACE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Space Association of Australia (SAA) will host a variety of events around Melbourne to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing including **The Right Stuff @ the Astor Theatre** on Monday, July 20th at 7:30 pm, and running video and audio of the Apollo 11 mission on the big screen in **Federation Square** the weekend of 18-19 July. For more information about the Space Association of Australia and their activities visit www.space.asn.au

US EMBASSY IN CANBERRA E-RESOURCES



To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Moon landing the US Embassy in Canberra has compiled a list of E-resources. This list includes information about the Apollo program and Australia's involvement. There is even something for those people who still don't believe we went to the moon. <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/irc/moon.html>

MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY / SEND YOUR NAME TO MARS



Follow the link to send your name to Mars with NASA's Mars Science Laboratory

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/index.html>

While you're there get an update on the mission and the new technology being developed to explore Mars.

MARS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 9th Australian Mars Exploration Conference will be held in Adelaide **17th - 19th July, 2009**. This year, a Spaceward Bound Australia expedition will depart a fortnight before the conference, led by Dr Chris McKay of NASA's Ames Research Centre and MSA engineer and Mars-Oz project manager, David Willson. MSA will be taking a group of educators, including VSSEC's Naomi Mathers, on a learning and development trek to Arkaroola and the central Flinders ranges where they will examine Mars analogue sites.

Conference Opening Event and Public Lecture: Dr Chris McKay



Dr McKay is a Planetary Scientist at NASA Ames. He is actively involved in planning for future Mars missions including human exploration. He has been involved in research in Mars-like environments on Earth, traveling to the Antarctic dry valleys, Siberia, the Canadian Arctic, and the Atacama desert to study life in these Mars-like environments. He was a co-investigator on the Titan Huygen's probe in 2005, the Mars Phoenix lander mission in 2008, and the Mars Science Lander mission for 2011. He is the deputy program scientist for Constellation - the NASA program for future human exploration of the Moon and Mars.

For more details about AMEC 2009 visit www.marssociety.org.au/AMEC.php

YOUNG ASTRONAUTS AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING SCHOOL



Young Astronauts Australia, in partnership with NASA Space Center Houston, invites Australian Science students who are thinking of following a career in either science, technology or engineering to apply for this NASA Space Engineering course to be conducted at NASA's Johnson Space Center Houston from September 26th to October 6th 2009. The Engineering Space School modules cover subjects such as rocketry, interplanetary flight, gravity, weightlessness, artificial satellites, projectiles, re-entry and much more. For full details and application form visit www.yassa.com.au/YAAES.html

AIP WOMEN IN PHYSICS LECTURE "Children of the stars,... Plasma is the fourth dimension of matter"



The 2009 Women in Physics Lecture for students will be held in association with the VSSEC Engineering and Science Careers Expo on Thursday 20th August at 12:00pm.

This year's speaker is Associate Prof. Christine Charles from the Australian National University. Prof Charles is the inventor of the Helicon Double Layer Thruster, which has many applications including satellite station keeping or interplanetary space travel. For more details visit www.vssec.vic.edu.au

LOCKHART RIVER STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



VSSEC staff recently held a video conference with grade 5 and 6 students from Lockhart River State Primary School on the Cape York Peninsula. The students are currently studying space in their science class and took the opportunity to ask some great questions.

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