MEDIA RELEASE

23 August 2010

Celebrating Space, Science and Learning

Students from the South Hobart Primary School will be asking questions of Astronaut Colonel Doug Wheelock on the International Space Station (ISS) on 27 August 2010 at 4:43pm using amateur radio.

The School is involved in the contact through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. ARISS is a volunteer program which inspires students, worldwide, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math through amateur radio communications opportunities with the International Space Station (ISS) on-orbit crew.

Students learn about life on board the ISS and explore Earth from space through science and math activities. ARISS provides opportunities for the school community (students, teachers, families and local residents) to become more aware of the substantial benefits of human spaceflight and the exploration and discovery that occur on spaceflight journeys along with learning about technology and amateur radio.

Locally the contact with the ISS has been facilitated by the Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc., which is part of the worldwide amateur radio community.

REAST Publicity Officer, Justin Giles-Clark said, "Club members will be helping the school to make the contact with the ISS through the ARISS program during this special year where we are celebrating 100 years of organized amateur radio in Australia."

"The school has been preparing for this contact over the last few months and students are very excited to have been chosen to ask a question of an astronaut orbiting 400km above the earth. This is an outstanding opportunity for the school to be involved in stimulating young minds about science and technology."

"This contact is taking place at the South Hobart Primary School in Anglesea St, South Hobart from 4:43pm on the Friday, August 27th. The media are invited to witness the contact and the questions that the students ask of the astronauts."

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