Space facts for future space agents

Space is amazing! There is a universe of space facts to learn and share with your friends. We hope you find space as cool and interesting as we do at the Australian Space Agency.

Australia in space – where are we now?

- **1961**: The Parkes Radio Telescope Observatory is established in NSW. At the time it is the largest in the southern hemisphere.
- **1967**: Australia launches its first satellite into space. Its name is WRESAT.
- **1969**: TV footage of Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the Moon was brought to the world by Australian stations.
- **1970**: A satellite built by a group of students at the University of Melbourne called Australis OSCAR 5 is launched.
- **1984**: Dr Paul Scully-Power is the first Australian-born person to go to space.
- **1996**: Andy Thomas is the first Australian-born astronaut to go to space.
- **1998**: Australia introduces the Space Activities Act to ensure safe space activities.
- **2000**: Precision GPS (Global Positioning System) becomes available worldwide.
- **2018**: The Australian Space Agency is established.
- **2019**: Australia partners with NASA on their inspirational plan to travel to the Moon and on to Mars.
- **2020**: The Australian Space Agency’s headquarters in Adelaide is opened by the Prime Minister.

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