

November/December 2017

CALL TO ACTION

Australians to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar landing



For many, the most significant achievement of the 20th century occurred on July 21, 1969 (local time), when humans set foot on another celestial body – our Moon for the first time, and several days later returned safely to Earth.

The world watched via television as the Apollo 11 mission unfolded, and an estimated 20% of the entire population of the Earth were united in the joy of the achievement.

The TV pictures of those steps were received in real time via the Honeysuckle Creek tracking station near Canberra, and they continue to be the most requested news video clip of all time.

Many Australians played major roles in supporting Apollo 11 and other Apollo missions, six of which were also lunar landings. Since 1989, groups of these ex- space trackers from Honeysuckle Creek, Tidbinbilla, and Carnarvon tracking stations, plus the CSIRO's radio telescope at Parkes, as well as other facilities in Australia and around the world, have held reunions every 21st July to commemorate the first landing.

We are now approaching the 50th Anniversary of that event, and while there are still a few of us left, we think it will be an appropriate opportunity to commemorate this remarkable achievement, and the role Australia played in it.

We have formed a committee with the aim of ensuring that events being planned for Canberra and elsewhere in Australia complement each other, and to encourage local and national organisations to join us in what will probably be the last anniversary that workers who took part in those exciting times will be able to participate.

Please check www.honeysucklecreek.net for news of the preparations, and feel free to join us on the Honeysuckle mailing list at <https://lists.tip.net.au/mailman/listinfo/honeysuckle>

We would appreciate hearing from any group or organisation planning 50th anniversary Apollo events or other related activities. We can possibly assist each other or at least avoid duplications and stretching of available resources.

You can contact us via Email AA11AC@pcug.org.au or Phone +61 (0)2 6181 4579

At this point we would love to hear from potential sponsors or others who would like to contribute to the celebration of humanity's greatest adventure and Australia's role in the Apollo 11 mission.

Yours Sincerely

Australian Apollo11 Anniversary Committee