



## **What happened with ARISS? International Space Station project: 2008 update #19**

Twenty questions, twenty children, and nearly fifteen minutes talking to an astronaut. That's what St Thomas experienced last night witnessed by a great school community that helped make an out of this world experience for everyone attending or participating. We hope you all remember it as one of the most exciting moments of your time at St Thomas.

After the long wait St Thomas' radio linkup with American astronaut Colonel Mike Fincke, orbiting the earth on the International Space Station (ISS) about 360 km above our school, finally became reality at 20:08 hrs. Apart from an initial short delay in receiving the signal from the ISS the evening went without a hitch. All our student ambassadors plus the reserve team were fortunate to be able to ask their questions during the live transmission as the ISS whizzed by at around 32,000km/hr.

To oversee the night we were fortunate to have had Shane Lynd visit for the night from Central Queensland, as representative from ARISS International.

The excitement of the night was also shared outside our own school community via TV, radio and newspaper coverage. The broadcast also went live via the amateur radio network internationally putting St Thomas' well and truly on the world map.

**From the ARISS team, a huge thankyou to everyone who participated or helped out:**  
**student ambassadors:** Annie Ryan, Emma Dalton, Britta Herde, Sam Holz, Lachlan Perrier, Georgia Lys Clark; Julia Shirley; Noah Littlefair; Amelia Burke; Rachel McAllister; Georgia Carroll; Harry Rogers, Kirstie Harrison, Caitlin Perrier; Bianca Wong; Georgie White, Lottie Littlefair; Tom Rashad, Jack Cole and Clare Ryan did a great job in representing their school. We hope this was a night you will remember for years to come.

**Thanks also from the ARISS Project Team to: David Cashman, our student liaison Angela Moore, Bruce Conley for stepping in as official photographer and** other teachers for their support and patience in helping juggle schedules to meet with our requests in the leadup to the event; to Debbie Radford and the P&F for catering, and Year 7 students Montana White and Mataya Perlinski for looking after our special guests.

**Our sponsors without whose generosity the night would not have been possible:** Brisbane City Council, Carina Leagues Club, Boeing Australia, Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, St Thomas Parish, Rob Branch from JLG (for the scissor lift which has been used to put up the antennae equipment), and former St Thomas student Bob Mollison.

The ARISS website [www.members.optusnet.com.au/jandnclark](http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/jandnclark) (also visit via the link from the school website) will continue to be updated. Photos, audio and video links will be uploaded ASAP providing a historical record of the leadup to the event and the night itself. Other useful information links include:

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/queensland/hello-space-this-is-brisbane-calling/2008/11/03/1225560732803.html>

WE hope everyone has been inspired a little to learn more about science, mathematics and technology and that the messages of good will and friendship promoted by the work done on the ISS stay with us all for many years to come.

**From the St Thomas ARISS Project Team**

*Morry Clark (ARISS Coordinator)*

Maggie Littlefair (Media liaison)

Brendan Radford (Technical support)

Rob Rosso and Gordon Reynolds (setup)

Ian Eckersley (Master of Ceremonies)

Santiago Rodriguez (video)

Bruce Conley (photography)

Angela Moore, Jacqui Lys-Clark (student liaison and support)

Phil and Loretta Jorgensen (sponsorship)