



International Space Station project: update 2

ARISS update - Iridium flares to flash over Brisbane!

Brisbane's night sky has lots of interesting things on show for St Thomas Space Station followers and anyone interested in space science. You just need to know where to look and what to look out for. The stars of this week's space show are Iridium Satellites. These are small communications satellites with very reflective antenna arrays (Morry, what is an array). They produce a bright flash high in the sky when the sun and satellite are at the correct angle (the mirror angle). This lasts for about five seconds.

Last Thursday night the International Space Station (ISS) passed over Brisbane at about 27,744 km per hour and 397km above earth. It looked like a bright star as it appeared in the northwest sky about 6.37pm and travelled across to the southeast horizon at 6.43pm.

This week, there will be three Iridium Flares above Brisbane. These can be seen with the naked eye in the East North East sky on:

Friday night at 7:28pm.

Saturday Night 7:10pm.

Sunday Night 7:01pm.

For more information check out www.heavens-above.com.

Something else to keep an eye out for this week is a story on St Thomas' Space Station Project in the South East Advertiser. Radio 4BC here in Brisbane and 6PR in Perth (syndicating to radio stations in the Southern Cross radio network in Western Australia) interviewed Morry Clark as part of stories they ran on the project last week. Seems like St Thomas students, teachers and families are not the only ones interested in hearing about the exciting things we are doing with ARISS!

A big thanks also to everyone who made donations to the Space Station Project at the Trivia night. \$240.00 was raise which will go towards educational material for the project.

For further information about St Thomas Space Station project contact Morry Clark Ph: 3901 4634 or email morryclark@optusnet.com.au. Messages can also be left at the school office in an envelope marked Attn: international Space Station Project team.