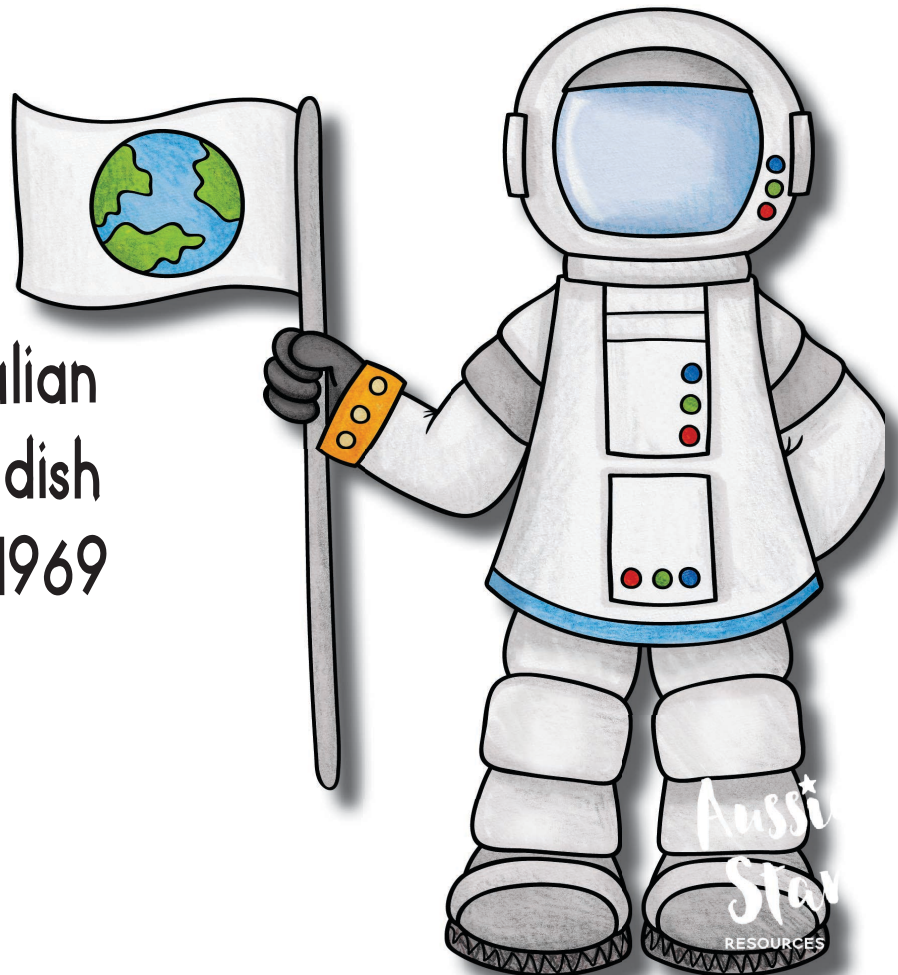
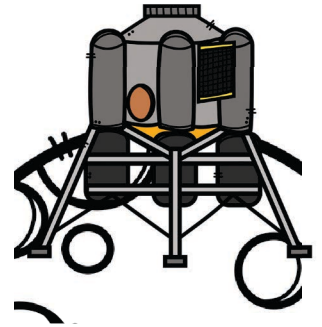


Australia's Role In The 1969 Moon Landing

How did a small Australian town and its enormous dish play a vital role in the 1969 moon landing?



EXPLORE AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1969 MOON LANDING



THE PARKES TELESCOPE

The tension in the air was thick and weighed heavily on the group of men nervously looking at computer screens as the wind howled outside. The room was suddenly filled with a loud metallic screech that caused everyone to duck their heads.

"She's not going to hold up sir! What are we going to do?" The young technician looked anxiously to his boss. The room around them shook with the force of the wind.

"She'll hold son. She's got to. The whole world is depending on her."

"She" is a large, 64-metre-wide, radio telescope located in the middle of a sheep paddock, a short drive from the town of Parkes in NSW. Its large frame resembles an upside-down umbrella. The locals call it 'The Dish'. On July 21st, 1969 The Dish played a vital role in broadcasting images of the moon landing to NASA in the United States and the entire world.

Why Parkes?

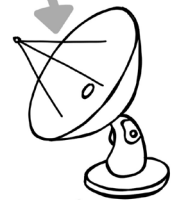
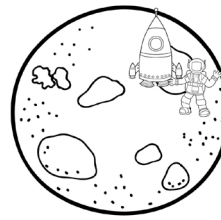
You may be wondering why NASA, the world's leading space agency, needed help from an Australian telescope. At the time it was built the Parkes telescope was the second largest telescope in the world.

(AEST) the Lunar Module containing Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon and began to prepare to walk on the moon. By the time they had their space suits on and took their first steps on the moon at 12:56pm, the moon was rising over Parkes.

Back on earth the telescope at Parkes was tipped all the way over ready for the moon to rise. Everything was in position, but the dish was suddenly struck with strong winds that caused the whole dish to shake and caused the telescope to be pushed back on its gears. The technicians were very concerned about the effect the wind would have on the transmission from the moon. As a back-up the antenna at Honeysuckle creek was also able to receive a signal and could begin the transmission to NASA in Houston, Texas. After 8 minutes the wind slowed, and the Parkes telescope was able to receive the transmission from the moon. The quality of the transmission was excellent, so NASA switched to the Parkes telescope. The signal was then sent to Sydney and was then sent to both the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and to NASA. NASA used a slight

WHY PARKES?

In the spaces below explain in your own words how and why the Parkes Telescope was used to receive and send transmissions from the moon to NASA in Houston.



AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN 1969 MOON LANDING

Glue your foldable comprehension discs here

Glue your foldable comprehension discs here

Why was the Parkes Telescope chosen by NASA to help with the transmission of the moon landing?

Why were the technicians worried the Parkes Telescope might not be able to play its role in the moon landing?

Why were Australians the first to see the footage of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon before anyone else?



