

HONEYSUCKLE CREEK TRACKING STATION AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

APOLLO 17
APOLLO 16
APOLLO 15
APOLLO 14
APOLLO 13
APOLLO 12
APOLLO 11
APOLLO 10
APOLLO 9
APOLLO 8
APOLLO 7

TO COMMEMORATE LAUNCH OF FINAL APOLLO MISSION



HISTORY

The first tracking by Honeysuckle Creek during the Apollo project commenced with the first manned mission in the project – Apollo 7. This was an earth orbit manned mission of 11 days with launch on October 12, 1968 (Aust. time).

All subsequent Apollo missions Apollo 8 through 17) have been supported as scheduled.

Honeysuckle Creek had the distinction of being the Station through which the first TV activities from the lunar surface were relayed to the watching world of that historic event – Neil Armstrong stepping onto the lunar surface during the Apollo 11 mission on July 21, 1969.

Apollo Missions Supported

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Apollo 7 | October, 1968 | Schirra, Eisele, Cunningham |
| Apollo 8 | December, 1968 | Borman, Lovell, Anders |
| Apollo 9 | March, 1969 | McDivitt, Scott, Schweickart |
| Apollo 10 | May, 1969 | Cernan, Young, Stafford |
| Apollo 11 | July, 1969 | Armstrong, Collins, Aldrin |
| Apollo 12 | November, 1969 | Conrad, Gordon, Bean |
| Apollo 13 | April, 1970 | Lovell, Haise, Swigert |
| Apollo 15 | July, 1971 | Scott, Worden, Irwin |
| Apollo 16 | April, 1972 | Young, Duke, Mattingly |
| Apollo 17 | December, 1972 | Cernan, Evans, Schmitt |

Errata on missions supported
Apollo 14 January 1971
Shepard, Roosa, Mitchell

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF HONEYSUCKLE CREEK TRACKING STATION AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

DESCRIPTION

The Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station is part of the world-wide Spacecraft Tracking and Data Network (STDN) which is managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The Station was built primarily to support NASA's manned flights to the moon, known as Project Apollo.

The construction of the Station commenced in February, 1965, and was completed in December, 1966, at a cost of about \$2 million. Equipment costs were about \$8 million and operating costs are about \$1.5 million per year. The official opening of the Station was performed by the then Prime Minister of Australia, the late Mr Harold Holt, M.P., on March 17, 1967.

The Station is located in the mountains about 20 air miles South-West of Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory. Height above sea level is 3,667 ft. The site was selected because it is shielded from man-

made radio frequency interference which could seriously jeopardise the reception of spacecraft signals.

A sealed road was built to provide easy access for the establishment and operation of the Station which is contained in an area of about 14 acres. All electrical power used is generated on site by diesel generators in the power house. Water drawn from a bore sunk in the bed of the Honeysuckle Creek is suitably treated before being pumped to a static reservoir from where it is gravity-fed throughout the Station area.

Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station is set in natural bushland with Australian native gum trees covering the surrounding hills and native shrubs growing amid the rocky outcrops. Australian fauna, such as kangaroos, wombats, and birds abound in the surrounding bush and are seen quite often in the grounds of the Station.