



Sydney Space Festival

April 12 to May 18 1986

Coordinated by the Sydney Space Association

Secretary Val Rogers — (02) 2395555 (w), (02) 4493134 (h).

President Gisele Mesnage — (02) 9205660

PO Box 49,
Gordon, 2072,
Australia.

To: C. Foley

February 19, 1986

Mr Charles F. Foley
Principal,
Concord High School
Warren st,
New Hampshire 03301 U.S.A.

Dear Mr Foley,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter to you on behalf of the Sydney Space Association. On the one hand, I would like to convey news that we hope will make you happy, on the other, I want to express the grief that we all still feel for Sharon Christa McAuliffe.

For the past year, the Sydney Space Association has been busy preparing for the first space festival ever held in Sydney. When January 1986 arrived, to us, it was "the year of our festival". Preparations were in full swing. Enthusiasm was high. Then...; same January 28.

We know of Christa's desire to teach children about the wonders of outer space. Our festival will include a display of space-theme paintings and other exhibits contributed by children. Mr Foley, we have decided to dedicate this exhibition to Christa. It shall be called "The Christa McAuliffe Children's Exhibition". It is to be held in a beautiful exhibition gallery in our Sydney Town Hall. The exhibition will include contributions from children in India, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

Mr Foley, though will feel sorrow for Christa, we want to carry on with her work. We want to do so with enthusiasm and happiness.

Our festival will take place from April 12 to May 18, 1986. It commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the First Manned Space Flight.

We are writing to you to request contributions from the students at Concord High for our Christa McAuliffe Children's Exhibition.

Last year, a letter requesting the involvement of local children was distributed by our Department of Education to all 2300 schools in our state of New South Wales.

Now, we have contacted three schools in the Sydney metropolitan area that are called "Concord" (Concord High, Concord Public School and Concord West). We have requested that they especially contribute to the exhibition. We would then like to exchange the contributions. After the festival, we would send you the exhibitions contributed by Australian children, and, we would distribute those contributed by your students to our three Concord schools.

We would seek poems, short dedications and space-theme paintings.

Christa wanted to see Spaceship Earth. She wanted to see the Earth without boundaries. In our exhibition logo, the words " I Can See the Earth " are inscribed. Those were the very first words that were exclaimed by Yuri Gagarin when his spaceship emerged into outer space. These words have often been repeated by astronauts and cosmonauts. One day, perhaps, what they see will be visible to all - the Earth has no real boundaries.

Our Christa McAuliffe Children's Exhibition will be international. We hope that through the students of Concord High, the children of America will be represented. (We had made a request for contributions from American children through the NASA office in Australia. But we have had no response to this request).

We look forward to your contributions,

Yours Sincerely,

G. Mesnage

Gisèle Mesnage
President

Footnote

We hope that our letter does not appear to be insensitive to the feelings of the children who witnessed the tragedy. If you feel that it is inappropriate to ask the children for contributions to our exhibition, we would understand. We were not even sure we should write and make the request. If you feel that it is not the time to raise this request with your students, perhaps you could approach another school on our behalf for contributions from American children. I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent to all our state schools for a guideline.



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PO Box 49,
Gordon, 2072,
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February 10, 1986

PRESS RELEASE

The Christa McAuliffe Children's Exhibition

The children's exhibition at the Sydney Space Festival will be dedicated to Christa McAuliffe, the American school teacher who tragically died aboard Space Shuttle Challenger.

The exhibition will include space models, space-theme art work and other exhibits contributed by school children, including exhibits from children overseas.

Christa McAuliffe wanted to inspire children to reach for the stars.

The Christa McAuliffe Children's Exhibition will be held at the Sydney Town Hall Exhibition Gallery during the Sydney Space Festival April 12 to May 18, 1986.

The Sydney Space Festival is a project of the Sydney Space Association. It commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the First Manned Space Flight.

* Contact Mrs Val Rogers (239 5555 W / 449 3134 H) or Ms Gisele Mesnage (920 5660 H / 267 6741 W).

Note: The letter which was circulated to all NSW schools inviting children to participate in the festival is enclosed for your interest.

SPACE FESTIVAL REPORT

The Sydney Space Festival will take place from April 12, 1986 to May 18, 1986.

The Space Festival will consist of exhibitions, talks, films and cultural activities.

There will be exhibitions in at least eight venues.

They will include:

The Government Information Service - Display of models, including a large model of the AUSSAT satellite. There will also be displays from the CSIRO's Office for Space Science and Applications (COSSA) and international exhibits.

The Mint & Barracks - Display of postage stamps and First Day Covers issued in 1961 to mark the event of the first manned space flight.

The NSW State Library - General Display. We will endeavour to include a display of newspaper headlines from April 1961 when the first manned space flight took place.

The City of Sydney Library - Display of postage stamps dedicated to space achievements in general to be presented by the Thematic Society of Australia.

The Sydney Town Hall Exhibition Gallery - Display of exhibits contributed by children. A letter inviting school children to contribute exhibits has been sent to every school in New South Wales with the assistance of the NSW Department of Education (copy enclosed).

The Lower Sydney Town Hall - Display of Space-borne photography at the Sydney International Exhibition of Photography April 11-20, 1986.

Pier 1 - Display of space images holograms at New Dimension Holographics at Pier 1. (to be confirmed).

The Sydney Technical College Library - General display. Will possibly include exhibits contributed by tertiary students.

During the school holidays, little human beings will be able to have a "close encounter" with OZONE, the space puppet, who will make special visits to the festival by arrangement with Murphys puppets. There will also be a play by the street theatre group of the Australian Theatre for Young People.

Other cultural events which have yet to be confirmed include a concert of electronic music and Aboriginal story-telling of Dreamtime legends about the creation of the Universe.

Children have been invited to make space masks and if there is a good response we will attempt to organise a mask parade.

The official opening of the festival has been tentatively scheduled for Friday April 11, at 2:00 pm, at the NSW Government Information Service.

If possible, please send by post any details of your festival project so we can do an up-dated written report for the February 18, meeting.

Letter sent to
our schools.
last year.

SYDNEY SPACE ASSOCIATION,
P.O. BOX 49,
GORDON, NSW 2072.

Secretary: Mrs Val Rogers
(Ph: 239 5555 a/w. 449 3134 a/h)

President: Ms Gisele Mesnage
(Ph: 920 5660 a/h. 267 6741 a/w)

To The Principal,

The Sydney Space Association was established in 1983 to provide educational and social activities for people interested in space exploration and technology.

In 1986 we will be commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the First Manned Space Flight, with the Sydney Space Festival, which will open on April 12, and will last throughout the school holidays and until May 18.

There will be exhibits from Australia, the United States, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the European Space Agency, Japan, India and Canada, which will be on display at the State Library of NSW; the NSW Government Information Centre; the City of Sydney Library; the Sydney Technical College Library; the Sydney Town Hall Exhibition Gallery; and the lower Sydney Town Hall.

Films will be shown at the NSW Government Information Centre and at other venues. We are also planning several public lectures.

The displays will consist of models, photos, posters, and stamps. But we are also planning some cultural activities, and the Sydney Theatre for Young People have indicated they will be participating.

The Sydney Space Festival will aim to develop public interest in space exploration and to demonstrate the benefits of space research and the application of space technology for peaceful purposes. Children will be encouraged to consider careers in space sciences and engineering.



We would like to invite all students to contribute to the Festival.

We would suggest the following items:

Space Models

Miniature models of space craft, or space stations. Models should be less than 1 metre in any dimension. They can be factual now, or represent future space craft. No war-oriented models will be accepted. The Festival aims to promote peace and co-operation in the use of outer space and its exploration.

Posters, Paintings and Designs

Posters, paintings and designs can represent celestial pictures and/or space craft, or space stations.

Masks

To represent 'other civilisations'. We will attempt to organise a parade of masks if there is a good response in this section.

Puppets and Figurines

Also to represent other civilisations. Figures could be accompanied by models of the environment they would live in.

Poems

One page poems for display. They can be illustrated, but must be restricted to one page.

All contributions must be handed in to the Space Association before March 27, 1986 (before Easter). All entries must be clearly identified. Teachers and pupils will need to deliver their contributions, and assist in the setting up of their display. The Sydney Town Hall Exhibition Gallery has been set aside for school displays.

A program listing all Festival events will be produced.

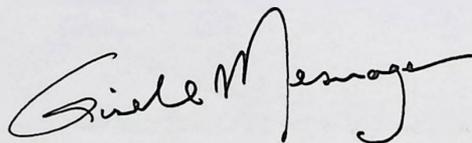
Schools wishing to organise excursions to the displays, films and lectures will need to make arrangements with the Space Association.

We look forward to your participation, with great interest.

Yours sincerely,



Val Rogers,
Secretary.



Gisele Mesnage,
President.