



**T**he **Centre for Australian Space Education (CASE)** is an organisation established in 1992 to provide support for Space Science Education programs. The CASE team are experienced professionals from the fields of education, science, engineering and industry who volunteer their time and effort to encourage our best young minds to consider a career in science or engineering.

**The Australian International Space School (AISS)** is a 5 day residential school established in 1992 for selected year 11 students (16 years of age) from all over Australia and overseas. Students participate in space science activities, rocket launches, astronomy and career path guidance sessions with young scientists and engineers. A NASA astronaut is invited to AISS when sponsorship can be found. Paul Sculley-Power, Australia's first person in space was present for the first two space schools. Later years saw return visits from NASA astronauts: Col. Pamela Melroy (shuttle pilot), Dr. Scott Parazynski (four times medical mission specialist) Jim Reilly (geology mission specialist) and our own Dr. Andrew Thomas.

Two graduates from AISS are selected each year to attend the International Space Camp, held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

**The South Australian Space School (SASS)** is the longest running and most successful of the four state based space schools that take year 10 students for a three day residential program. Selected graduates from SASS are sponsored to attend the AISS each year. Established in 1997 it also has had visits from the astronauts mentioned above. The SASS team will be organising AISS in 2004 from Adelaide with a visit to the famous Woomera rocket range so that the students can watch ASRI launch sounding rockets during the long weekend in October.

Other state based space schools have been run in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

CASE has also been responsible for planning and organising many competitions and activities that have supported science educators from around Australia. With strong strategic links to NASA educators and astronauts we have been able to organise two national competitions open to all students from grades 3-12 in Australia.

**Science Experiments in Space** was a competition that gave students the opportunity to design micro-gravity experiments that could be flown on board the space shuttle. The winners of this competition and their teacher were flown to the USA to watch a shuttle launch. **Dreaming in Space** was a competition where Australian students from years 3-12 designed a piece of artwork on the theme "Dreaming in Space". The winners of the four age group categories had their artwork photographed and it was flown aboard the space shuttle by NASA astronaut pilot, Pamela Melroy. A framed authenticated montage was presented to the students, signed by the shuttle crew.

The CASE team continue to work with colleagues in the USA to provide opportunities for students and educators throughout Australia. We will be involved in the establishment of **Young Astronauts Australia** during 2004. It will be affiliated with Young Astronauts International (based in the USA). This program is aimed at primary teachers and students providing educational resources to help students understand their unique place on our fragile planet Earth. The resource materials enable teachers to inspire and motivate their students to see that an understanding of science will help us plan for a sustainable future on Earth.