



Amateur radio centre-stage in City of Light celebrations

50 Years of anticipation all worked out on the day we celebrated John Glenn's orbit in Friendship 7 in Perth last Monday.

We had John Glenn, the Premier of WA, the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lyn Beazley, the WA Chief Scientist and many other dignitaries on hand to celebrate. We even managed to squeeze in some David Bowie and a video on how to become an astronaut.

The crowds filled the Northbridge Piazza and much anticipation culminated at 10:24 UTC. Orbital calculations all worked out and the International Space Station made it across the horizon. There were some chilling seconds when Mike was calling from Honolulu, but in the end, the contact was a great success.

Of course, an event like this could not have been possible without a little help from some friends, Captain Dan Burbank on the International Space Station, the WA State Records Office, the WA Museum, the City of Perth, ARISS, NASA and the Hills Amateur Radio Group.

A full credit list is being prepared on the Hills Amateur Radio Group website, but two people require a special mention, **Tony VK5ZAI** the Australian ARISS mentor and **Meg VK6LUX** who energetically kept the multitude of interested parties moving along making it all possible.

We managed to get Amateur Radio into the news on ABC Online, ABC radio and local television, who knows we might pick up some more amateurs along the way.

Alex VK6FLOL and Donald VK6PDS scored a place in history as prize winners for the contact.

Perhaps you can help a local school in your area for an ARISS contact next year.

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