



An Australian Government Initiative



national science week 2020

Satellite Selfie

A Quick How To Guide

This event is presented by ACT National Science Week and the Where You Are Festival with the support of the ACT Government and is co-hosted by The Australian National University.

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Satellite Selfie

Get your picture taken, from space

Have you ever taken a selfie? What if you could take one from space?

During National Science Week 2020, all 420,000+ Canberrans will be invited to go outside for a giant photograph taken from space!

How to get involved

Invite your family, work, school or friends to go outside on an oval, park, or backyard and create large designs, flags, or logos. To be seen from space, the images need to be BIG and laid flat on the ground. Letters must be a minimum of 2.5 m x 3.5 m to be seen clearly in the satellite image, but you could also display large flags or your own designs. For the best results, use reflective materials like aluminium foil, or block colours such as red, white, orange, or yellow (just make sure they contrast with your background!). You can make shapes or designs from paper, paint, cars, cardboard, vinyl, or even assemble a human chain (but remember to stay 1.5 m apart).

In early September you can see what your creations looked like from 770 km away, when the images are released to the public.

The satellite flyover will occur three times on Monday 17th, Wednesday 19th, and Friday 21st of August between 10am and 11am. Each flyover will only last a few minutes, with the exact times released closer to the event.



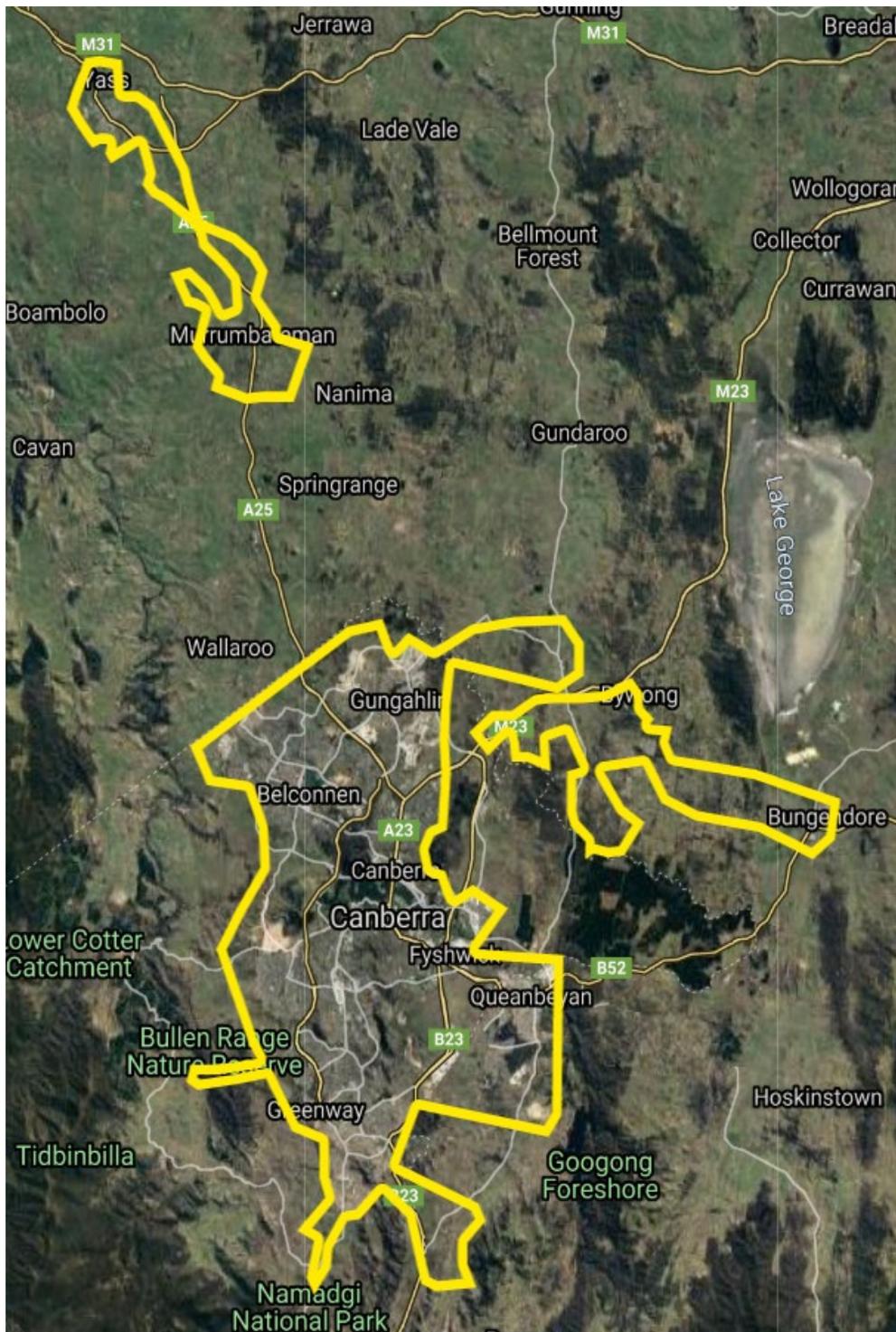
15-23 AUG 2020

scienceweek.net.au #scienceweek

What areas will be in the selfie?

The satellite will be flying over Canberra and the surrounding area, including Queanbeyan, Googong, Tharwa, Yass, Murrumbateman, Sutton, Royalla, and Bungendore.

You can check if your home, school, or workplace will be included in the image [here](#).



FAQs



Q: Is my sign big enough to be seen?

A: To be seen from space, the images need to be BIG and laid flat on the ground. Each pixel needs to be 50 cm x 50 cm, so the letter 'A' for example should ideally be no smaller than 2.5 metres (5 pixels) wide and 3.5 metres (7 pixels) tall to be seen clearly in the satellite image. The bigger your sign is, the better. Check out our [handy guide](#) for more information (including helpful diagrams!) on pixel resolution and what can be seen from space.

Q: Who can be involved?

A: Anyone and everyone, the more the merrier. You just need to either be outside during the three flyovers, or leave your sign outside to be imaged by the satellite. See [our website](#) for more information on how to get involved.

Q: What if I'm not available or don't want to go outside for all three flyovers?

A: No problem! Try making a sign and leaving it outside ahead of time. That way, even if you're not personally in the photo, your creation will be. If you or your creation are not outside for all three flyovers we can't guarantee you'll end up in the final image as we'll only be picking the best one (e.g. the one with the least amount of cloud).

Q: I don't think I'll be able to get outside or have the time to prepare something. Is there any way I can still be involved?

A: If you can't make it at all, we have lots of fun activities you can do at home. See [our website](#) for more information.

Q: Can I leave my sign outside?

A: Absolutely! Just make sure to be safe and respectful when doing so, and make sure it's weatherproof and won't blow away.



FAQs

Q: How far away from trees/buildings etc do I have to be to be seen?

A: The further away the better – try getting out onto an oval or in the middle of your yard. When you go outside, make sure to stand away from trees and buildings. You'll know you're in the clear if you can see 60° straight above you. To estimate 60° all you need to do is stand with both arms together straight above you and move them each 3 fist widths apart (one closed fist, at arm's length, equals about 10° in the sky). If in that angle the sky is clear, then you are clear. See our [handy guide](#) for more information and a helpful diagram.

Q: What should I make my sign out of?

A: Anything you have really, though do try to recycle whatever you use afterwards! Read our [handy guide](#) for more specific tips on materials to use, but whatever it is, make sure it's weatherproof and contrasts with the background (e.g. a dark sign on a light background). For the best results, use reflective materials like aluminium foil, or block colours such as red, white, orange, or yellow that contrast with your background (no green clothing on green grass!). You can make shapes or designs from paper, paint, cars, vinyl, or even assemble a human chain.

Q: What happens if my sign is smaller than you recommend?

A: If you're holding it, we should still be able to see you holding something, but it might just look blurry. If it's out on its own, it might be hard to see. In any case, try working as a group and pooling resources to make something larger, and make sure to wear bright clothing. Otherwise, try lying down with the sign to take up more space.

Q: How did you choose the areas that would be included?

A: Whilst we would have loved to include everyone, it was a balance between including as much of Canberra and surrounding areas as possible (focusing on the areas where more people live), while still able to be seen by the satellite all at once, and being affordable.

Q: I'm getting a group of friends together to make a sign, does social distancing still apply?

A: All state-based COVID-19 health restrictions will still apply for the duration of the event. In the ACT, we advise wearing a mask and maintaining a distance of 1.5 m between participants.

