

2024



### Katherine Bennell-Pegg

is the first astronaut to represent Australia. She is qualified for long duration missions to the International Space Station and even the Moon.



1992



### Dr Andy Thomas

became a NASA career astronaut in 1992, and made four space flights between 1996 and 2005. He conducted experiments on the Mir and ISS space stations, and made several spacewalks. Raised in South Australia, Andy flew as an American.



1984



### Dr Paul Scully-Power

was the first Australian-born person to go to space, and a US citizen at the time. He was a NASA payload specialist on a Shuttle in 1984, drawing on his background as an oceanographer.

2025



### Elaine Hyde

is the first Australian woman to go to space. Her sub-orbital journey was aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket ship in 2025.

2021



### Dr Chris Boshuizen

was the third Australian-born person to go to space, aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket ship in 2021. The entire suborbital journey lasted about 10 minutes.

2025

### Eric Philips

a polar explorer, he made an historic flight over Earth's polar regions as part of the SpaceX 'FRAM2' mission in April 2025.



2022



### Dr Meganne Christian

was selected as a reservist in the European Astronaut Corp in 2022, representing the UK Space Agency, where she now works.

1967

### Dr Philip K. Chapman

was the first Australian-born American astronaut. He was selected by NASA in 1967 but left the astronaut program in 1972 before making a space flight.



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Australian Space Agency



## Dr Philip K. Chapman

Dr Philip K. Chapman, a physicist originally from Melbourne, was the first Australian-born American astronaut. In the late 1950s he worked in Antarctica for 2 years as an auroral/radio physicist.

He was selected in 1967 as a member of NASA Astronaut Group 6. This group of scientists were specifically selected for the Apollo Moon program. Philip was involved in preparations for lunar missions, and was a mission scientist for the Apollo 14 mission.

He served for 5 years in the Astronaut Corps but left NASA in 1972 before making a space flight.

The pictures show Philip K. Chapman training in the Lunar Module Simulator at the then-Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center) in Houston in 1968, as well as an astronaut portrait.

*Credit: NASA*





## Dr Paul Scully-Power

The first Australian-born person to make a spaceflight was oceanographer Dr Paul Scully-Power, a Payload Specialist aboard Space Shuttle mission STS 41G in October 1984. Payload Specialists were not permanent members of the NASA astronaut corps and received shorter training for specific missions. At the time of his spaceflight, Paul was a US citizen and a civilian US Navy employee.

During his flight, Paul made visual oceanographic observations of three-quarters of the world's oceans. He observed ocean current features that could not be detected from remote sensing satellites in higher orbits and made important discoveries about spiral eddies (large-scale circular ocean currents). These observations resulted in better understanding large-scale ocean movements and their effects on the world's weather systems. The discoveries made by Paul during his space mission were of significance to oceanography, meteorology, and other Earth sciences.

**The pictures show Paul Scully-Power during pre-launch preparations for his flight, his astronaut portrait and during Zero-G training.**

*Credit: NASA*



←  
BACK TO  
HOME



## Dr Andy Thomas

Dr Andrew ("Andy") Thomas was the first Australian-born NASA Mission Specialist. Mission Specialists were permanent members of the astronaut corps, responsible for experiments and research programs carried out on Shuttle missions. Andy made four spaceflights, totalling just over 177 days in space. His first flight was STS 77 (1996) aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Changes in US citizenship laws enabled Andy to reapply for Australian citizenship and he made his second spaceflight as a dual US-Australian citizen.

In 1998, Andy became the last US astronaut on the Russian Mir space station, spending 141 days in space. Between 2001 and 2003, he served as Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office. Andy's third flight, in 2001 on STS 102, included his first spacewalk. He spent

six and a half hours installing components on the exterior of the International Space Station. Andy's final space mission was STS 114, in July 2005, the first flight following the loss of Space Shuttle Columbia. He tested and evaluated new procedures for flight safety, and inspection and repair techniques for the Shuttle's thermal protection system.

**The pictures show Andy Thomas with some Australian souvenirs during his first spaceflight in 1996, his second astronaut portrait and on his spacewalk in 2001.**



*Credit: NASA*



←  
BACK TO  
HOME



## Dr Chris Boshuizen

Dr Chris Boshuizen, co-founder of space start-up Planet Labs and a former NASA engineer, became the third Australian-born person to go to space. He made a sub-orbital tourism spaceflight on 13 October 2021. Chris flew on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, which launched from the west Texas desert.

Chris travelled alongside Star Trek actor William Shatner, Blue Origin Executive and former NASA ISS flight controller Audrey Powers, and Medidata Solutions CEO Glen de Vries.

**The picture shows the crew of Blue Origin's NS-18 flight on 13 October 2021 - (L-R) Audrey Powers, William Shatner, Chris Boshuizen and Glen de Vries - after the capsule landed in Texas.**

*Credit: Felix Kunze, Blue Origin*





## Dr Meganne Christian

Dr Meganne Christian was selected as a Reserve Astronaut in the 2022 European Space Agency Astronaut Group. She is also the Exploration Commercialisation Lead at the UK Space Agency.

Previously, she worked as a materials scientist at the National Research Council in Bologna, Italy, which included zero-gravity research to study the heat management of satellites. She also worked as an atmospheric physicist and meteorologist at the Franco-Italian Concordia Station, a research facility in Antarctica.

Meganne was born in Kent, England to New Zealand parents, but came to Australia aged 5 and completed school and university in Australia. She holds Australian, British, New Zealand and Italian citizenship.

**The picture shows Meganne at the 2022 European Space Agency Astronaut Group announcement event.**

*Credit: Sebastiaan ter Burg*





# Katherine Bennell-Pegg

In 2024, the Australian Space Agency's Katherine Bennell-Pegg became the first qualified astronaut under the Australian flag.

Her training at the European Astronaut Centre in Germany from 2023-2024 covered a wide range of areas. This included operating experiments in low-gravity during parabolic flights, medical training, space station robotic arm simulations, survival training, foreign languages, human centrifuge, hypoxia and hypobaric awareness, diving in the neutral buoyancy facility to practice spacewalking and more.

Katherine is qualified for missions to the International Space Station and the Moon. She has also developed knowledge and connections that can help create opportunities for Australian scientists, engineers and innovators to be part of major international missions.

**The pictures show Katherine during her training with the European Space Agency in Germany.**

*Credit: European Space Agency*





## Elaine Hyde

Elaine Hyde is a physicist, business woman and pilot. She is a dual Australian and United States citizen who flew as one of six people on Blue Origin's 10th human spaceflight mission on 25 February 2025.

New Shepard is Blue Origin's fully reusable, suborbital rocket system. The vehicle is fully autonomous and has no pilots, with each journey lasting about 10 minutes.

The pictures show Elaine Hyde during pre-launch preparations for her flight.



*Credit: SpaceElaine.com*







## Eric Philips

Eric Philips is a celebrated Australian polar explorer who has led numerous expeditions to both the North and South Poles. He entered space in April 2025 as part of the FRAM2 mission, the first human spaceflight over Earth's polar regions. During their multi-day mission, the crew took the first x-ray in space, performed exercise studies to maintain muscle and skeletal mass, and grew mushrooms in microgravity.

The pictures show Eric Philips during pre-launch preparations for his flight.

*Credit: FRAM2*

