



Melbourne Welcomes Annual Mars Conference

This year's Australian Mars Exploration Conference in Melbourne on October 14-15 2006 at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) at Strathmore. Mars Society Australia organises an annual conference to bring together researchers from across Australia and internationally, and provides the opportunity for the public to find out more about what it will take to send humans to Mars, and what progress has been made to date. The 2006 conference theme will be 'Establishing Base Camp: Science, Methods and Technologies to Support the Human Exploration of Mars' and there is an exciting series of presentations planned for this two day event, with speakers from organisations such as Monash University, the Australian National University, the University of Western Australia and the International Space University. Mars Society Australia Project Manager Dr. James Waldie will provide an overview of the work he and his wife Natalie have done with VSSEC, designing simulated spacesuits for use by students using the Centre.

Presentations will cover a plethora of issues connected to future human Mars exploration - everything from how to get there to what will need to be done to establish a presence on the surface. The conference will also showcase some of the education and outreach opportunities currently available to students and teachers, connected with space and space science in particular. The program includes a personal guided tour of the magnificent VSSEC facilities, including the simulated Martian surface room, labs, Mission Control and the spacesuits designed by MSA for the students to wear during "their time on Mars.

For further information see:

<http://www.marssociety.org.au/amec2006/amec2006.htm>

Media interviews with speakers or members of Mars Society Australia can be arranged upon request. Please contact Dr. Jonathan Clarke on 0418 401 612 or Jennifer Laing, PR Director, at pr@marssociety.org.au