

EDUCATION & OUTREACH WITH THE MER MISSION

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The journey of the Mars Exploration Rovers has not only been exciting for scientists, but has also captured the public imagination. Billions of hits to the Mars Rover' and related websites have shown that as humans we have not lost our fascination, nor our curiosity for exploration and discovery.

Each new image, and every new clue to the wet past of Mars and its meaning for the possibilities for life away from our planet, draws the public to the internet and facilities such as the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC).

The Mars Exploration Rovers are as much a tool for the scientists to explore, as they are tools to capture the public's interest in, and support for the exploration of space.

Glen Nagle will illustrate and discuss the successes experienced at the CDSCC in educating students and the public about Mars and space through the eyes and instruments of the two NASA Rovers.

What will such education and outreach experiences tell us about the future for exploration, and what clues will this give us into what we will need to do to encourage the public support for a human mission to the red planet?

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