Using Satellites with School Children: The Schools in Space Project:

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Abstract
Space science offers a wonderful opportunity for teachers to empower students to see beyond their world. Space brings out an innate curiosity and fires the imagination in almost every human being. Accessible computer and radio technology is available today which can be used to make students active participants in space science and animate its teaching. Such experiences can be life changing for children and set them upon a course of investigation and scientific pursuit that will last all their lives. In this talk I will present a brief overview of the outcomes of the Schools in Space Project that is currently being undertaken as the focus of my Science Teacher Fellowship year at the University of Sydney. I will also spend time looking at one small aspect of the Project: the application of low earth orbit satellites as an educational tool, in particular the NOAA weather satellites, the potential educational outcomes of using these satellites and how their use can be practically implemented in schools without excessive capital outlay and with minimal teacher expertise.

Biography
Matthew has been a high school physics teacher and generalist science teacher for 16 years. In 2002 he was awarded the inaugural University of Sydney Science Teacher Fellowship for his project: the development of a radio observatory and space communications facility for school students. Currently he is working on this project from the School of Physics at the university of Sydney. He recently was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for overseas study to examine the management models and technical infrastructure of similar projects overseas. Matthew has a BEd, GradCertPhys, MA (Theology).