

# When even Mars is not beyond your reach



**INSPIRATION:** Students Meredith Woolstley, Catherine Norman and Marion Byrne with Colonel Pam Melroy yesterday. Picture: DEAN MARTIN

## Three shot in caravan

A MAN shot dead his baby daughter and former girlfriend before turning the gun on himself, Queensland police said yesterday.

Officers found the bodies of a 23-year-old man, a 19-year-old woman and an 11-month-old girl in a caravan on a property near the township of Aldershot, near Maryborough, in the state's southeast, about 8.30am yesterday.

A high-powered rifle was found nearby.

Police were called after neighbours heard gunshots overnight at the caravan on a property where the woman had returned recently to live and raise her child.

**By Education Reporter NHADA GOODFELLOW**

**COLONEL Pam Melroy** was eight-

years-old when she decided she wanted to travel into space.

Watching Neil Armstrong take the first steps on the moon in 1969 from her family's New Jersey holiday home left her "completely enraptured".

"When I was really little I wrote this story called *One Little Astronaut* and I've always liked the idea of being an astronaut, it seems really cool."

The NASA pilot astronaut - who flew combat duty in Desert Storm and has piloted two space missions - is now herself an inspiration to a new generation of space-hopefuls.

Colonel Melroy - who describes Adelaide's Andy Thomas as a "buddy" - says being in space is "like being in a magic universe".

"There's really no way to describe it because we haven't developed the words and the experiences to describe it," she said.

Colonel Melroy piloted the October 2000 Discovery and October 2002 Atlantis missions to the International Space Station.

Her next space mission - which she will be commander of - has been delayed because of the Columbia disaster but she expects it to go ahead late in 2004 or 2005.

Colonel Melroy will today participate in model rocket launches at Hamilton Secondary College, before addressing pilots at Edinburgh Airbase on Friday and giving a free public lecture on Friday night at Adelaide University.

"They need to prepare themselves, study, work hard in school.

Her next space mission - which she will be commander of - has been delayed because of the Columbia disaster but she expects it to go ahead late in 2004 or 2005.

"I want to help encourage the next generation of students to prepare themselves for something they can't even imagine yet."

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Space School student and Annesley College Year 10 student Catherine Norman dreams of emulating Colonel Melroy's achievements.

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"I really want to be an astronaut," the 16-year-old said yesterday, as she rubbed

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## Esther blasts off to astronaut camp

**BY NHADA GOODFELLOW**

ADELAIDE student Esther Wong is about to reach for the stars.

The Murrumbidgee High School student is about to attend the NASA International Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.



The Year 11 student will experience nine days of intensive astronaut training from July 25, including a simulated mission to Mars, eating space food and experiencing weightlessness in a giant water tank.

"I've always wanted to be an astronaut since I was a little kid," Esther, 16, said.

"I'm still thinking this is all a dream. It's a really big opportunity and I never thought it could be possible."

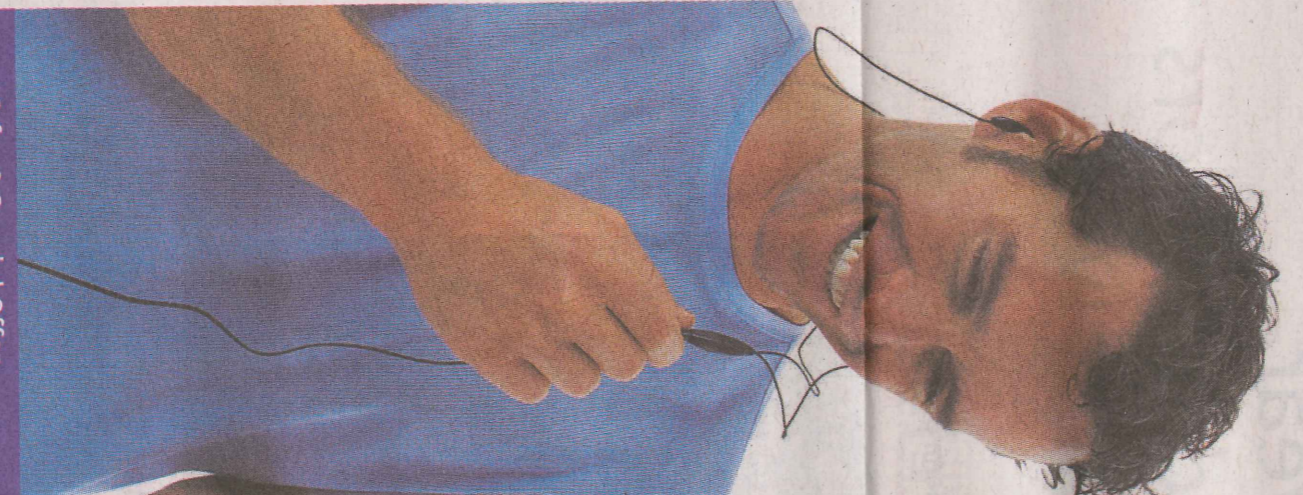
Esther was inspired by an internet conference during last year's

**DREAM:** Esther Wong will leave soon. SA Space Camp with Dr Harrison Schnitt - an Apollo 17 crew member.

Meanwhile, Scotch College physics teacher Jeff Brock is this week attending NASA's Space Academy for Educators in Huntsville. He will spend the week participating in workshops and astronaut-style training.

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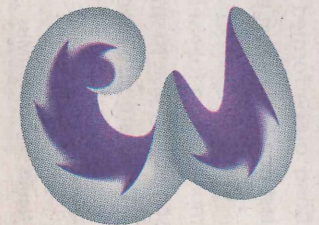
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