



ASTEROID SPOTTING

Young astronomers getting Harvard recognition for science observations



Former Mount Lawley SHS students and their teacher Richard Meagher.

HIGH school students are getting credit at Harvard University for astronomical observations they're making using the same tools used by professional astronomers.

The Mount Lawley Senior High School senior science students have taken part in the University of Western Australia SPIRIT program that has them controlling a robotic telescope.

Teacher Richard Meagher says his involvement stemmed from his personal interest in astronomy and the fact his Year 12 physics students had to do an investigation as part of their course.

Students can control the tele-

scope from the comfort of their own homes and submit their data to experts, including those at the Minor Planet Centre observatory at Harvard University.

"They can sit at home, they can book their time, they can make their observations, they can take images, they can then process images on the machines," Meagher explains.

"The one's who got the accreditation, they felt quite special because they're high school kids, and this observatory now has their name on some plaque somewhere to say that they were the ones who got accredited."