

Police Wrap	
ALICE SPRING	Police have been alerted to a number of suspicious vehicles in the Alice Springs area.
PERTH	A man has been charged with the murder of a woman in Perth.
WEST PERTH	A man has been charged with the murder of a woman in West Perth.
WARRAMUNDI	A man has been charged with the murder of a woman in Warramundi.

NEW TELESCOPE HELPS HIGH SCHOOLS AIM FOR THE STARS

A new internet telescope based at The University of Western Australia will give high school students the opportunity to discover new planets and exploding stars in distant galaxies.

The research-grade instrument, which is accessible to schools across WA, will allow students to measure the positions of asteroids and comets, and potentially discover

new minor planets and exploding stars in distant galaxies.

The SPIRIT initiative has been developed by the secondary teachers' enrichment program, SPICE, and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), with support from the School of Physics at UWA.

The telescope is housed in a 3.5m dome observatory on the roof of UWA's Physics Building. SPIRIT's primary mirror has a diameter of

35cm capable of viewing objects hundreds of millions of light-years away.

Students will be able to either request a timeslot in the telescope's night schedule, or control the telescope live in real time.

Paul Luckas, from SPICE, said that SPIRIT was a unique initiative that would allow high school students to conduct significant scientific research.

"Department of Education students throughout

the State now have access to the same tools used by professional astronomers around the world, without needing any special software," Mr Luckas said.

ICRAR Director, Professor Peter Quinn said the Centre aimed to achieve research excellence in astronomical science and engineering. "By combining our strengths with SPICE, we can extend the boundaries of academic excellence in astronomy into Western Australian high schools," Professor Quinn said.