

Drones the new eyes for police in the air

By GERALDINE ALPHONSE

West Australian Police will have more mobile eyes in the sky to boost frontline operations and, although ownership, training and piloting sits with the Police Air Wing, the Canning Vale Police are excited about the prospect.

Police Minister Michelle Roberts confirmed last week WA Police would add up to 35 additional drones to its Air Wing fleet and train up to 60 pilots over the next two years.

The drones will be used to support a wide range of police operations including search and rescue operations, forensically mapping crime scenes and other police tactical operations.

The technology will be fitted with high definition video recording cameras, thermal imaging technology, flood lights and speakers.

The specialist drones will be capable of flying in both day and night time operations.

It's anticipated that a drone will be available for use in every police district across the state.

Canning Vale Senior Sergeant

Quentin Flatman said drones have been used with significant benefit by law enforcement agencies across the globe.

"Due to their mobility and versatility they can cover areas more effectively and expediently than police officers covering areas by foot or motor vehicle when undertaking searches in bushland for lost or missing persons," he said.

Mr Flatman said drones are useful in assisting partner combat agencies such as St John's Ambulance and Department of Fire and Emergency Services in managing emergencies and deploying resources.

"They also provide significant assistance in crime scene analysis or examination of traffic crashes by providing a birds eye view for the investigator," he said.

"Also during large gatherings within the Armadale Police District drones can assist in event management, providing real time information to the police incident controller, assisting in deploying on the ground police to incidents that require attention.

"Increasing our ability to be in the right place at the right time."

Athlete humbled by top award from Curtin Uni

By GERALDINE ALPHONSE

An award-winning water polo player has been named Sportswoman of the Year at the annual Curtin Sport Awards.

Zoe Arancini was named the most valuable player in this year's Australian Water Polo League season and scored three crucial goals to beat Hungary in the Aussie Stingers' 2019 FINA World Championship bronze medal match.

"I feel very honoured to be named Sportswoman of the Year," she said.

"There are many worthy elite athletes who are achieving in their sport while pursuing a degree so I'm thrilled to be acknowledged for my achievements this year."

Ms Arancini said she was thrilled when her team defeated Hungary in the FINA World Championship.

"It's always an elated feeling to score one goal let alone three in a

final match," she said. "I was happy that I was able to stand up in those moments for the team and also the collective work by team mates to assist in those situations and also continue the momentum throughout the game was pleasing."

Ms Arancini's passion for the sport started at age 12, playing in the Saturday Flippa ball competition at Melville Water Polo Club.

Both her parents played water polo at an international level and Ms Arancini said it helped her develop an undeniable passion for swimming.

After all her success Ms Arancini said she is completing a Health Sciences degree and planned to apply for a Masters in Ultrasound.

"Beyond Tokyo 2020 I have not really thought about what I will do in regards to water polo," she said.

"Whatever happens I would still like to be involved in some capacity to give back to the sport."



St Norbert College year eight student Isabella Hulm is representing Western Australia on the 2020 Premier's Anzac Student Tour.

First time visit to Darwin

By GERALDINE ALPHONSE

Year eight student Isabella Hulm will be among the youngest students representing Western Australia in a trip to Darwin and Singapore for the 2020 Premier's ANZAC Student Tour.

From April 16 to 26 2020 the tour will commemorate the 78th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin and the fall of Singapore.

This is the first time in the tour's 17-year history that students will visit Darwin.

St Norbert College student Isabella is a proud fifth generation West Australian with a long family war service history including serving family members from both maternal and paternal sides of the family.

"The details of their war history is currently largely unknown but my Nana and I have commenced the process to unlock one of my great-grandfather's war service records," she said.

"He returned from WWI with lifelong war

injuries." History has always been one of Isabella's favourite topics as her father is also very interested in war history.

"My dad has a huge book collection which I have had access to from a young age and I have a strong appreciation for the ANZAC spirit and traditions and the impact that those who served before us have had on modern-day Australia," she said.

"This will be a life changing experience for me to be a part of and I will make the most of the opportunity to learn as much as I can while on the tour.

"I am especially looking forward to travelling to Singapore and commemorating ANZAC Day celebrations at the Changi War Memorial."

Students will take a 10-day tour and visit significant sites including the WWII oil storage tunnels, the Causeway, Labrador Park, Fort Siloso, Johore Battery, Fort Canning and Changi Beach.

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