

## STARSTRUCK CINDY SETS SIGHT ON SPACE

John Besley – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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Cindy Hancock takes a tumble during space training with NASA.  
Picture: Actura Australia

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COUNTLESS nights spent gazing into the expanse of space has paid off for one Denistone East resident.

Marist Sisters College Woolwich student Cindy Hancock was given the opportunity to experience life as an astronaut when she travelled to NASA in Alabama.

The expedition was part of a Space School program run by education company Actura Australia which aims to fuel female students' interests in science and technology subjects.

Cindy joined students from all over NSW for the two-week experience, which saw them go hands on with a number of astronaut training exercises and get the opportunity to meet and learn from real-life astronauts on what it's like to venture among the stars.

For Cindy, 12, it was a dream come true. "I've had a telescope for a while and I've spent lots of nights looking out my window at the stars and wondering what's out there," she said. "I definitely want to be an astronaut."

With Cindy ranking maths and science as her favourite subjects at school, she says her favourite part of the program was getting to learn about the technology behind what makes space travel possible.

"We got to design a heat shield and test it out, which was really cool.

"I also didn't realise how many career opportunities are out there in the industry and what new jobs there will be in the future.

"It was a really great experience and a once-in-a -lifetime opportunity."