

BEN GOODSSELL

Statement

HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (South West) [9.45 pm]: I stand tonight to present a good news education story. I would like to report on a year 12 Nornalup student now attending Trinity College. Ben Goodsell, the son of Chris and Maria Goodsell, has excelled in the study of astronomy. Astronomy is a specialty subject at Trinity College. I am reliably informed that the school's observatory is world class and that many students pursue advanced studies not only at the school, but also at university. Ben, who is a boarder at the Rotary Residential College in Victoria Park, recently won a Fulbright Foundation scholarship, one of only two in Australia, to visit and study at the Kennedy Space Centre in Houston, Texas. The other student, I am reliably informed, is a female from South Australia. That is a fantastic achievement by both students.

Ben is president of the astronomy club at Trinity and has been a keen astronomy student for a number of years. I am led to believe that this interest all started with stargazing in Nornalup. I do not know what members can read into that - probably not a great deal if this year's weather is any indication. The achievements of students like Ben Goodsell are proof of the quality of our education system in preparing our students for the highest of academic rigours. Ben's teachers and parents are to be commended on the guidance and support that they have given him, especially the likes of Mr Bob Gunn, a noted science educator and mentor on the south coast and an important person to many science and computing students in that locality. Ben, I am reliably informed, will attend a space camp and will complete project work that will be assessed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In turn, NASA will provide feedback and support. All of this will be in addition to Ben's rather hectic schedule at school. Ben certainly has a passion for astrophysics and hopes to pursue that as a career in the future. While in Texas, he will attend lectures given by astronauts and others directly involved in the space program, which is a wonderful opportunity for the advancement of a Western Australian student. According to his teachers and people like Mr Bill Cooper, the observatory administrator at Trinity College, Ben was a standout nominee having been involved in many different astronomy projects at school. I am reliably informed that he is particularly interested in the field of asteroids and in understanding the causes of the different amount of light emitted by the stars. I congratulate Ben Goodsell on his marvellous achievement and wish him well in his future studies.