

Menu

Subscribe

Login

The Advert



NEWS

AFL

SPORT

ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS

LIFESTYLE



Timelapse Captures Dramatic SpaceX Rocket Launch. Credit - Twitter/dannysullivan via Storyful

SCIENCE

UniSA space studies program 'satellite' helium balloon lands in Lake Alexandrina

Jill Pengelley, The Advertiser

January 28, 2018 8:11pm

Subscriber only



SPLASHDOWN in Lake Alexandrina was not what scientists had planned for a helium balloon and its "satellite" payload launched at McLaren Vale on Sunday morning.

The balloon travelled higher and further than expected and passed over a team hopeful of retrieving it on land.

On its journey of just over two hours, Horus 46 took more than 200 images of the Fleurieu Peninsula, the River Murray and the top of the Coorong.

It had been expected to burst at about 17,000m but rose to more than 21,000m before popping and beginning its descent into Lake Alexandrina, off Tolderol Game Reserve.



📷 One of the images taken by Horus 46, looking out to the ocean from McLaren Vale.

The project, which involved 50 students, from 15 countries, is part of the five-week Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program, started by UniSA in 2011, in partnership with the International Space University.

Ali Akhtar, who has worked in satellite communications for almost eight years, is the program's first participant from Pakistan.



“Australia’s got a leading role nowadays in the next generation of space,” he said.

“We like to call it New Space or 2.0.”

Mr Akhtar said the next generation was about commercial opportunities rather than government-oriented ventures.

Space Studies Program co-director Dr Ady James, who is an adjunct senior lecturer at UniSA, said the helium balloon project drew on a range of skills of participants.


“It’s a very short program but it’s a good analog for doing a small satellite launch,” he said.

A larger balloon, with a remote mechanism to control where the computer and camera payload landed was to have been used for the launch but was replaced by Plan B because of the extreme heat.

Dr James said the release mechanism carried a possibility of sparking a fire when the payload landed.

A recovery team will retrieve the stratosphere junk from the lake.



 The Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program helium balloon is launched from Serafino Winery in McLaren Vale.



COMMENTS



Post Comment



