

NEWS

Icy continent awaits

A RECENT icebreaker grounded in Antarctica hasn't deterred Nancy Auerbach from planning her all-women mission of going to that same icy continent in December.

The Engadine conservation scientist, aged 54, will be part of a 78-group of international female scientists hoping to study polar climate change in an environment said to show the fastest response to climate change of any part of the world.

The Homeward Bound project of which she is a member is said to be the world's largest all-female expedition to Antarctica and comprises scientists from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK, and the USA.

Dr Auerbach received her PhD from the University of Queensland and although her choice of living in the shire was a deliberate one she originally hails from the US.

The expedition leaves from Ushuaia, Argentina, but travel is not a novelty for Dr Auerbach, she said.

"I've travelled to Cana-



I've also worked on research projects in Alaska and Russia

Nancy Auerbach

da, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, and in Australia I've looked for birds in all the different states plus the Northern Territory and the ACT," she said.

"I've also worked on research projects in Alaska and Russia and in Australia in the Pilbara and the Simpson Desert."

Like her future fellow travel companions, Dr Auerbach aims to bring more global awareness from a perspective of what is seen as an under representation by females in leadership but with the potential to contribute to policy and decision-making in "our home", the planet.

The Antarctica expedition is part of a 10-year plan to build a 1000-strong



DOCTOR ON BOARD: Shire-based scientist Nancy Auerbach is looking forward to her Antarctic expedition.

global collective of women in science with a focus on leadership and planning for the planet.

Participants have to pay US\$15,000 and round-trip transport to Argentina.

"The cost for the program, in excess of the normal cost of a trip to Antarctica, is for

courses in leadership, science, strategy, and innovation that will be delivered on board," Dr Auerbach said

During 20 days at sea on the way to Antarctica experts will provide "cutting edge" science education incorporating knowledge on research about the planet and

those on board will be part of a multi-media documentary.

In the meantime Dr Auerbach is planning fund-raising events. Anyone wishing to support the expedition can go to the Homeward Bound website.

■ homewardboundprojects.com.au

Cronulla men arrested after raid

TWO men have been arrested during an investigation into the supply of cocaine in Miranda.

Strike Force Yambunyah was established to look into the supply of the illegal drug and on Wednesday, March 30, two men, 30 and 42, were arrested at Cronulla.

Following the arrest police searched a gym on Cronulla Street and homes on Giddings Avenue and Elouera Road.

During the search detectives seized cocaine along with drugs believed to be steroids.

The first man, 42, was charged with supplying a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug and possession of a prohibited drug.

The second man, 30, was charged with supplying a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug.

The men, both from Cronulla, were remanded in custody to appear at Central Local Court on May 26.

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