

Community News

# Tackling the waste problem



From left, St Mary's College students Elizabeth Smith, Stella Menjivar, Ruby Seabourne and Isabelle Murray.

**FROM FRONT PAGE**  
ST Mary's College is on the path to reducing its carbon footprint following its biennial Sustainability Fair, teaching students how small changes can create a positive environmental impact.

The fair, which was held in December, saw kinder to year nine students get involved in a range of active learning opportunities that promoted local and sustainable produce and the change to waste-free lunchboxes.

Sustainability officer and fair organiser Tanaz Jungalwalla said in the past the fair had helped students learn how to reduce their environmental footprint at home, as well as at school.

"Our students are passionate about the environment and have a wonderful drive to make positive changes in their community," she said.

By learning how to make beeswax wrap – a waste free recyclable cling-wrap alternative – the students were actively combating the eight million tonnes of plastic waste dumped into the world's oceans.

"These workshops mean students can take what they've learnt directly into the community and help create wide-reaching changes," Ms Jungalwalla said.

"The message isn't just to students. We're reminding parents to ask their children what they've learnt

and to be open to their suggestions of making small changes so that collectively, we can make a big difference."

St Mary's College principal Helen Spencer said sustainability and environmental impact were viewed as a key learning experience for students.

"St Mary's College embraces our educative and spiritual responsibilities for sustainability," she said.

Highlights of the fair included food trucks showcasing local produce, an ethical cupcake stall, a KeepCup shop offering reusable coffee cup options designed by the College, and a swap meet that gave students the opportunity to trade their unwanted items.



Bawdy Panto's cast members and members of the Melanoma Tasmania Board dropped into West Hobart Gourmet Meats to thank the team for their kind donations. Photo credit: Jacqui Coad.

## MIRTH AND MERRIMENT FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

MELONOMA Tasmania has benefited from the mirth and merriment of the annual Bawdy Panto's, having received more than \$6,700 from the theatre group after a successful two-week season of 'Bumblina' at the Playhouse Theatre in December.

Producer John X said that each year the Panto chose a charity to support.

He said the team was excited to support Melanoma Tasmania, a charity which provides advocacy, support and counselling for Tasmanians and their families affected by melanoma.

Fundraising is done through volunteers rattling buckets at the end of the show and the now traditional mid-show 'meat tray auction'.

"We were very lucky to have the support of M&J Butchers in Clarence and Hill St Gourmet Meats in West Hobart, who provided nine meat trays free of charge," John X said.

"It couldn't have been done without them."

For more information about Melanoma Tasmania, visit [www.melanomatasa.org.au](http://www.melanomatasa.org.au)

# Home care support for Hobart seniors

**FROM FRONT PAGE**  
Liberal Government would also ease the cost of living for local seniors receiving home care by reducing the daily maximum fees payable by up to \$400 a year.

"We understand local people's preference to receive aged care services in their own homes and to live independently for as long as possible," he said.

"The home care expansion is on top of the extra 20,000 packages funded in the past year, which combined will result in a 40 per cent increase in the people receiving home care packages."

The maximum basic

daily fees payable for home care in Hobart will be reduced by \$400 a year for Level One packages, \$200 a year for Level Two packages and \$100 a year for Level Three packages.

"Our Government will top up payments to providers on behalf of local seniors to ensure there are no reductions in levels of service," Senator Abetz said.

The \$287 million release of additional high-level packages is supported by another initiative to improve services for senior Australians receiving residential aged care.

"We are investing \$98 million to fund increased

payments for GPs to treat patients in local aged care homes," Senator Abetz said.

"We recognise the important role local doctors play in supporting the health and care of people in residential care."

The Liberal Government is also investing more in providers who support senior Australians living in rural and remote areas and people from homeless backgrounds.

"These providers face unique circumstances and cost pressures and we want to ensure their sustainability."

The Viability Supplement for eligible residential aged care providers is to be increased by 30 per

cent through an investment of \$101.9 million.

The Homeless Supplement will also be increased by 30 per cent through a \$9.3 million funding injection.

"Our Government is determined to continue improving aged care at every opportunity to help ensure local senior Australians receive the care they want and deserve, where and when they need it," Senator Abetz said.

"We have invested an extra \$1 billion a year in aged care services since 2013 and are continuing our record investment through the 2018-19 Budget's \$5 billion boost over the next four years."

## HOBART OBSERVER

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