

## Helping students to engineer a career



**TASK:** St Mary's College students Spriha Paudel, 16, left, Lucy Ryan, 15, and Eloise Deconinck, 15, have fun making a wind turbine at the University of Tasmania. **PICTURE:** RICHARD JUPE

**ALEX LUTTRELL**

ENGINEERING may be a male dominated field, but that's definitely not going to hold Lucy Ryan back.

Lucy, 15, was one of hundreds of school students who took part in the Futures in Engineering activities day at the University of Tasmania yesterday.

Students from St Mary's College, Sorell District High School, The Hutchins School and The Friends' School did hands-on activities in mechanical and structural engineering as well as

renewable energy.

"They learnt about the university-built Formula SAE car, designed wind turbine blades and learned about Australian Defence Force engineering.

Naval engineers discussed engineering applications to their vessels — a path Ms Ryan said she could follow.

The St Mary's College student said there was no reason women should shy away from such a career.

"I think it's a very historical problem, women being very intimidated to join the workforce — especially a

male-dominated field," she said.

"There are rewarding careers for all genders in engineering, not just for men."

Engineers Australia state general manager Vicki Gardiner said there was a decline in enrolment in STEM subjects in years 11 and 12.

"The number of young women studying these subjects in particular is of great concern," Dr Gardiner said.

"This is linked with the fact students are often ill-informed about the study and career paths available in to engineering."

## Bid to appeal axe bash penalty

A 40-YEAR-OLD Hobart man sentenced to seven years' prison for attacking his estranged wife with an axe inside a busy supermarket will attempt to appeal his sentence.

Earlier this year, a Supreme Court jury found William Henry Richardson not guilty of attempted murder, but guilty of the lesser charge of causing grievous bodily harm.

The trial heard that after seeing his estranged wife at the Shoreline Plaza shopping centre in March, Richardson bought an axe from a discount store and entered the supermarket where he launched five blows on her head and body.

Following the jury's verdict, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Linda Mason asked Justice Stephen Estcourt

to impose a sentence that reflected personal and general deterrence. Justice Estcourt backdated Richardson's sentence to March 6 last year and ordered he not be eligible for parole until he has served 4½ years in jail.

Yesterday, in the Supreme Court, before Chief Justice Alan Blow, the matter was adjourned until August 21.

# Hodgman plays hardball Taxpayers won't fund AFLW team

**BRETT STUBBS**  
Sport Editor

THE AFL should fund a joint Tasmanian women's team in the AFLW, rather than relying on the state's taxpayers again, says Premier Will Hodgman.

North Melbourne and Hawthorn have lodged submissions for an AFLW licence when the competition expands in 2019, including strong Tasmanian components.

But Mr Hodgman says it is time to play hardball with the AFL given the more than \$6 million of taxpayers' money the state pays to see the Roos and the Hawks men's teams play a combined seven home games in Tasmania each year.

"As a starting point I'd like to think for once the Tasmanian Government isn't expected to contribute directly," Mr Hodgman told the Mercury.

"It would be a wonderful demonstration of goodwill by the AFL that yes they get we are a passionate state, we have strong claims for a stand-alone team and it would be not unreasonable for the AFL to respect that by not requiring the Tasmanian Government to directly fund a team here."



**FOOTY FIGHT:** Yesterday's report in the Mercury.

The Premier has put the onus back on the AFL to devise a plan for the state's entry into the men's and women's competitions and it is believed he will meet with AFL heavyweights in coming weeks to discuss the matter.

But the AFL was remaining tight-lipped yesterday with a spokesman stating the league's position has not changed with the Hawks and Roos contracted until the end of 2021.

Mr Hodgman also said he still fully supported the push for a joint license, as long as it had a strong Tasmanian flavour through branding, games in the state or local players.

"We'll obviously consider any request that comes to us,"

Mr Hodgman said.

"We need to be strongly supporting what is rapidly important part of the sport — women's and girl's participation.

"We would want to support that increased interest people have for AFLW footy," he said.

"But I'd like to think this would be a great opportunity for the AFL to reflect the fact that if we want to have elite level Tasmanian content in various forms, there is a looming opportunity for that to occur in the women's competition.

"It would be the next logical stepping stone to look in the medium term to the men's competition."

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