

The Examiner

Primary schools lead the way in recycling

By LUCY POSKITT

Nov. 9, 2013, 1 a.m.



TWO Launceston schools are leading the charge in recycling, thanks to Keep Australia Beautiful community grants.

St Thomas More's and East Launceston primary schools received grants of \$1300 and \$700 respectively to buy recycling bins for their schoolyards.

East Launceston Primary School assistant principal Brett Hay said the school's student council was concerned about the amount of recyclable rubbish in bins and littered around the playground, and had installed the recycling bins two months ago.

"It's made a significant difference already," he said.

The school was now collecting 240 litres of recycling a week.

Grade 6 pupil Emily Heazlewood, 12, said it was important to recycle "because it helps the environment and keeps our world healthy".

St Thomas More's has introduced containers, for organic waste - to be composted on the school's grounds - paper, landfill and mixed recycling.

Grade 5/6 teacher and sustainability officer James Kingston said the school aimed to reduce its contribution to landfill by 90 per cent, and was already below the 40 per cent mark.

"Our target is to reach 10 per cent by the end of next year, so we'll see how we go," he said.

"The kids are really on to each other about it, and remind each other if they're not putting it in the right bin."

The Launceston City Council and the Northern Tasmanian waste management group combined their \$10,000 grants and have bought 25 new dual rubbish and recycling bins to be spread across the Launceston, Dorset, George Town and Meander Valley council areas.

Launceston City Council waste management officer Regan East said the bins would be delivered at the end of November and installed soon afterwards.