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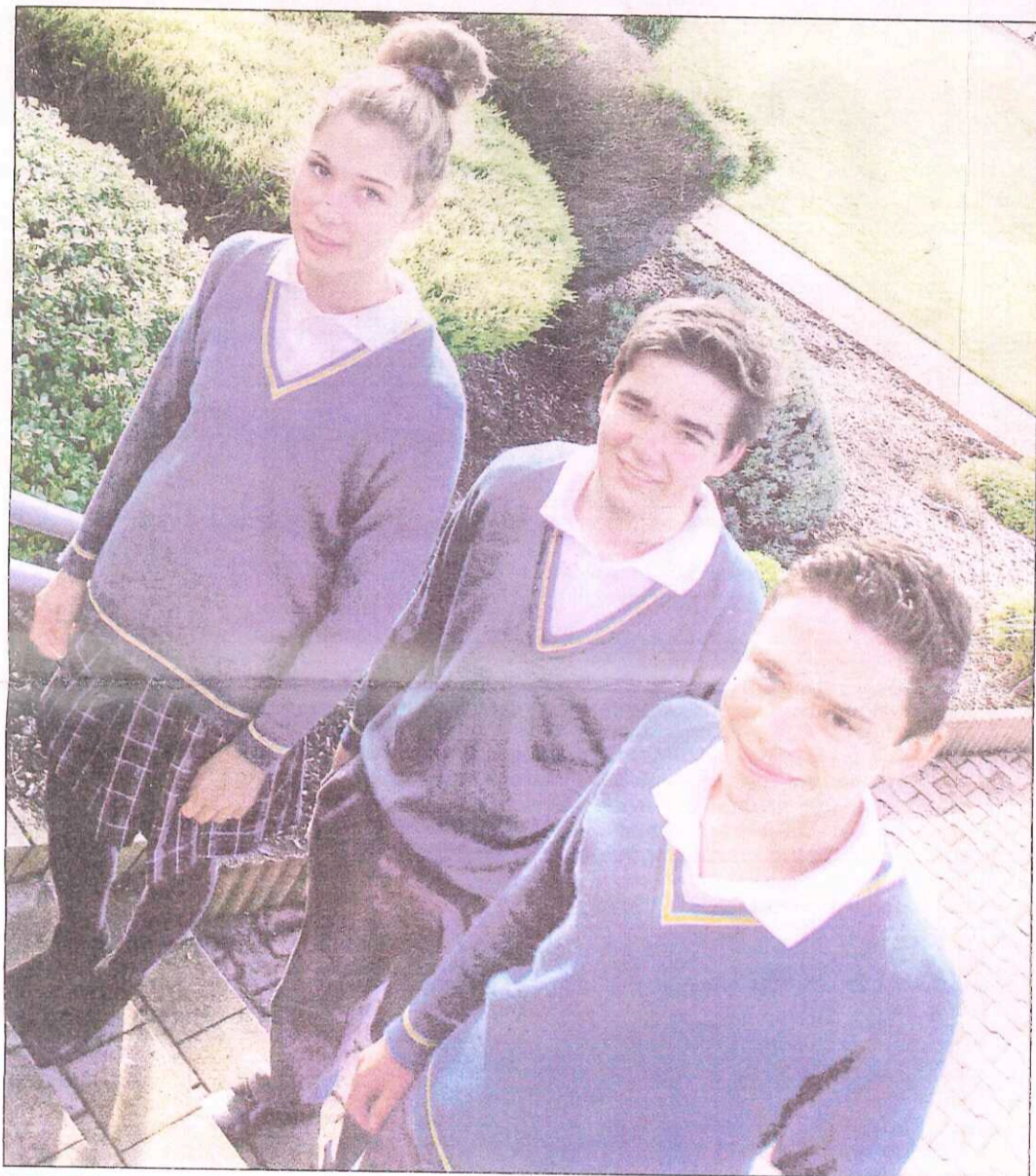
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EXCHANGE: French students Alienor de Mornac, Ronan Delerve and Guillaume Nover are attending St Joseph's School during their six-week stay in Port Lincoln.

## French on a tour down under

THREE French students are taking a cooler summer break than their friends, choosing to experience an Australian winter in Port Lincoln.

Ronan Delerve, Guillaume Nover and Alienor de Mornac have not let the winter weather stop them getting out and experiencing what the area has to offer.

Ronan has already spent a week at Dutton Bay and both the boys have been four wheel driving in the Coffin Bay National Park, sand-boarding, kayaking and visited Glen-Forest Tourist Park.

Alienor only arrived last week but she is already settling in and enjoying the experience.

"It's very cool, very different and the people are very open-minded," she said.

She is also happy that the subjects are easier than what she is used to in France.

The students are staying with local families for six weeks through the Students of the World exchange program, which offers students all over the world the chance to experience another culture during their school holidays.

David, Maree, Amber and Bianca Easton are hosting Ronan; Malcolm Watt, Kellie Grace and Charlee Watt are hosting Alienor; and Cate, Steve, Eliza and Alkira Wuttke are hosting Guillaume.

By Billie Harrison

# Town rate system not fair

By Kimberlee Meier

kimberlee.meier@ruralpress.com

TUMBY Bay District Council mayor Laurie Collins does not think the current system of applying rates is fair across the board, with ratepayers in the district's residential areas set to pay an average rate rise of 10 per cent this year.

The high residential rate rise is a stark contrast to the rural rate rise, which is not expected to tip past 2 per cent.

Councillor Bob Lawrie said the residential rate rise of between 10 and 13 per cent would apply to properties valued between \$100,000 and \$140,000, meaning it would affect the majority of the Tumby Bay township.

He said the rate difference between township and rural was unfair to people living in the

residential areas.

Mr Lawrie proposed a fairer rate difference at a council budget meeting last week, but the alternative was dismissed.

"The ones that voted against it were three farmers," he said.

Lipson, Ungarra, Port Neill and those who live in the Tumby Bay township would be hardest hit by the rate rise, Mr Lawrie said.

"I would think the people with the lower valued blocks of land won't be happy at all with it," he said.

"How can you justify increasing the fixed rate from \$435 to \$540 this year?"

Mr Collins said the rating system used by the council was never really fair as the council tried to apply the same percentage increase to values that varied from property to property.

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