



**GIRL POWER:** Abigail Richards with her ferret Fay, and Abbey Suckling study at Marcellin Technical College. H0350875

## Trading places

**EDUCATION |**  
JANE WHITFORD

THE gender gap is closing at Marcellin Technical College with the number of girls studying a trade jumping from three to 25 in two years.

Principal **Jim Fenoughty** said adding viticulture, animal studies and commercial cookery courses had helped boost female enrolments.

Girls now make up 25 of the Christies Beach school's 209 students.

"Previously there wasn't a great deal of interest from females and it was hard to attract girls to the traditional trades because of a real deep culture and perception from both employers and em-

ployees," Mr Fenoughty said.

"But that perception is starting to change and we've had some great success with girls in traditional trades plus we've added these (extra) programs which are of more interest to girls. All of a sudden we've got more girls and it's been great."

He said the school would look to add more trade programs to encourage more girls to enrol.

Morphett Vale's **Abbey Suckling** is one of three girls studying electro technology and says she can "definitely" match it with the boys.

"I always wanted to do something more hands on," the 16 year old says.