

ring at other schools, the Hobart area.

"Super-sizing classes in simply not acceptable," Mr Gutwein said.

He called on Education Minister Paula Wriedt to provide urgent financial resources to schools to reduce class sizes.

# Eco-cement aid in global warming fight

**BY CHARLES WATERHOUSE**  
A HOBART inventor has produced a way to productively use some of the burgeoning amounts of carbon dioxide in the world.

John Harrison says eco-cement, which is a blend of magnesium oxide and conventional cement like Portland cement, could help turn around global warming.

He said no supply problem existed for magnesium, as it was the eighth most abundant element in the earth's crust.

Mr Harrison, of Austins Ferry, is a qualified scientist, economist and accountant, and is managing director of Teclco Ply Ltd, an Australian research and development company started in 1999 with the aim of developing sustainable technology.

Tomorrow he will get an opportunity to showcase his product nationally when he appears on the first ABC *New Inventors* television program for 2005 which screens from 8pm.

Mr Harrison said an economic solution was needed for the world's growing greenhouse problem.

"What we have is a means of putting away billions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) and where better than to put it but in the built environment.

"Eco-cement concretes ab-

and the fact the school population was growing faster than expected.

"It came down to poor planning and poor funding," he said.

Mr James advised the school he would refer the matter to Mr Gutwein.

A day later, an Education

sorb large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere to harden into materials used in the built environment.

"Teclco eco-cement technology is a vitally important technological breakthrough because it offers partial solutions for global warming, climate change, waste and cost effective housing for the masses."

As well as this, because eco-cements were chemically benign, large amounts of wastes could be incorporated into them.

Mr Harrison said some leading scientists and science organisations around the world had welcomed eco-cement technology as having great medium and long term potential.

Eco-cement was generally used for bricks, blocks, pavers, permeable pavements and other porous cement-based products.

He hopes to make magnesium oxide using a kiln he has invented which had no emissions and was powered by solar or waste energy.

Mr Harrison hopes people will show they care for the environment by the product winning the New Inventors people's choice award.

For more information go to [www.teclco.com](http://www.teclco.com).

Department deputy secretary rang him to say a planning permit had been lodged with the Kingborough Council to put a demountable or "terrapin" classroom on site.

Acting Education Minister Lara Giddings said the Education Department was treating the issue seriously.

"The school involved is getting a transportable classroom placed on the property so that the accommodation problems they have can be dealt with," she said.

Ms Giddings was unable to say when the classroom would arrive and whether it would be in time for the start

of the school year next week. She later issued a statement saying that for the first five days of the school term, two classes would share a room.

"A double-classroom terrapin will be moved from Devonport High School, where it isn't needed any more, to

Tarooma Primary School," Ms Giddings said.

"Once the terrapin is reassembled, and its services [electricity, water] connected, it should be ready for students and teachers to move in on Friday, February 23."

Ms Wriedt is due to return from leave next Tuesday.

## Overseas buyers come for wool sale

**BUYERS** from Europe and Asia are in Launceston this week for a major Tasmanian wool auction.

Roberts Ltd general manager of wool Murray Best said the auction, which started with wool inspections yesterday and continues until Thursday, is for a wool clip with an approximate value of \$24 million.

He said about 20,000 bales would be offered, representing shearing from about 850,000 sheep or 25 per cent of the state's total sheep population.

It was a feature sale of superfine wool which also had an excellent representation of fine, medium and crossbred wool types.

Mr Best said the wool was one of the better offerings from Tasmania because of favourable weather conditions.

However, it was a tougher growing season in the northern Midlands because of dry conditions.



**SOLUTION:** John Harrison with his eco-cement blocks. Picture: LEIGH WINBURN

