

A national science experiment



(L-R) Mitchell Goddard and Brad Serls enjoy keeping a daily check on seismic activity.

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MAZENOD College in Lesmurdie is one of 40 schools around Australia chosen to have a seismometer installed as part of a national science experiment. The seismometers are linked into a global network to measure earthquake activity and the Australian Seismometers in Schools network hopes the national initiative will also encourage more school students to consider a career in geoscience. Mazenod was one of seven schools through-

out the state to be selected because it is ideally located on the edge of the Darling Scarp, which is an ancient fault line. Mazenod Year-12 earth and environment science student Bradley Serls said it was quite a privilege to be able to have a seismometer in their school, which had been recording ever since it was set up. He said he had always been interested in geoscience and it was fun to check the data daily, which was sensi-

tive enough to measure shock waves from doors closing and students moving around in between periods. Year-12 student Mitchell Goddard said the seismometer had nothing to do with his plans to go into the air force, but it was interesting nevertheless. "I like the way it picks up data from the other side of the world – if there's a large enough earthquake in China we would still pick it up, if it's large enough," he said. University of Western Australia structural ge-

ologist Myra Keep said the seismometer initiative was a great way to collect new baseline data to understand the physical state of the Australian crust. Professor Keep said it was also a great way to bring schools and tertiary institutions together. "It's a superb program that gets kids involved as we collect data for the whole of Australia, it's also fun for the kids to jump up and down to try and make an earthquake." For more information go to ausis.edu.au