



**Mal and Helen Johnson, of Prospect, are recipients in the Launceston City Council and Tas Gas Woodheater Replacement Program.** Picture: PHILLIP BIGGS

## Gas connection creates green alternative

By KATE CLIFFORD

PROSPECT'S Mal and Helen Johnson are living green after replacing their woodheater for gas last year.

The couple were recipients in the Launceston City Council and Tas Gas Woodheater Replacement Program, which offered residents \$500 to replace their woodheater for natural gas.

Mrs Johnson said they utilised their street's access to the natural

gas network to replace their woodheater and hot water system.

"It is a lot cleaner, our house is always warm and we have instant hot water," Mrs Johnson said.

This year the council has provided \$40,000 to convert 80 Launceston homes to natural gas.

Residents to take advantage of the grant will also receive free gas connection.

Mayor Albert van Zetten said the initiative would reduce the cost of living.

"Replacing woodheaters with a cleaner form of heating has helped to dramatically improve Launceston's air quality," Alderman van Zetten said.

"With woodheaters back on the rise in Launceston, we would hope to see more of the community taking advantage of this cleaner energy option."

More than 2500 Launceston woodheaters have been replaced since the program's inception in 2001.