

# Cool colors carry music to young ears



**IN TUNE:** Leah Fitzgerald and some of the "exciting" violins being appraised by her school and which have made her keener to practise.

Picture: MARK CALLEJA

By MEL HEIN

A BRIGHT idea was all it took to make Leah Fitzgerald want to practise the violin.

The nine-year-old Wilderness School student is part of a state trial of the brightly-colored Epoch violins made in Tasmania by the Gondwana Musical Instrument Co.

Armed with her new green violin, Leah declared the violin had now become cool.

"I love the color and the shape they are really cool and they get me to practise because now I love playing my violin," she said. "The colors make them more exciting - the old violins were a bit boring."

Leah and her Year 4 peers are part of a 13-week trial of the violins through local supplier Silver Keys and Strings Music Centre.

students and teachers will appraise the violins.

Music teacher Barbara Sedgley said the students' response to the violins had been amazing.

"The kids really love the new violins because they are a little bit different."

Ms Sedgley said string instruments had long had an identity problem and the brightly colored violins were helping overcome that.

"String instruments are more conservative and the kids that play them are often considered a little bit square compared to those kids who play things like the drums and saxophone," she said.

"But by simply changing the color and design of the violin helps bring it back into popular culture, and it certainly makes the kids more eager to practise."

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