

The 45-year-old man accused of stabbing another at a gym facility in the state's north, briefly appeared in the Launceston Magistrates Court today, and was denied bail. Paul Justin Smyth was charged with committing an act intending to cause grievous bodily harm after he entered Zap Fitness in Kings Meadows on Wednesday, and proceeded to stab his victim in the head from behind. The frenzied and unprovoked attack that left the other man hospitalised and needing internal and external stitches to his cheek, temple and hands.

Mr Smyth was apprehended by police around 18 hours after the incident, where today, the matter was adjourned without plea, and he has been remanded in custody to appear in front of the court on the 23rd of July.

The Tasmanian Government is still on the hunt for a private investor to build further accommodation and housing for workers and tourists at the gateway to the ever-popular Cradle Mountain National Park.

As the expression of interest to build lodgings at a 13ha section of land was extended from December last year, and then coronavirus complicating the process even further, the deed is still in desperate need of financial investment.

The government mentioned there was some potential buyers back in January, but now, months on, the lack of interest has forced the government to offer it as freehold and pursue other ideas.

The Hobart Showgrounds Sunday Market will reopen this weekend after four months of inactivity, due to the coronavirus lockdown.

With attendance capped at 250, and strict que monitoring and social distancing measures being implemented, the

market has already attracted 60 stallholders and hopes the unique items on offer like cakes, preserves, antiques, plants and bric-a-brac, encourage patrons to flock back to the weekly event.

As an independent MP Andre Wilkie has revealed damning evidence of a local pub seemingly having total disregard for social distancing regulations, where a number of patrons are well within the allocated distancing while playing the poker machines.

Mr Wilkie said he was anonymously handed images and video footage of four punters at neighbouring machines sitting shoulder-to-shoulder, going about playing the pokies at the Carlyle Hotel in Derwent Park, saying the actions were a complete disregard for government sanctioned COVID-19 safety requirements.

Highlighting Victoria's alarming situation and their recent influx of cases, Mr Wilkie mentioned the establishment itself, quote "may be maximising their own profits, but they're putting the community at risk, and putting the state at risk of a second wave."

He also brought up rumours of other gambling premises at fault of safety breaches, including Wrest Point, but Federal Group Executive General Manager Daniel Hanna said they are complying with safety regulations as much as possible, touting attendance caps and rigorous cleaning and hygiene processes.

To sports news now, and Supercars Australia has announced that the Tasmanian leg of the competition that was supposed to take place in April has officially been rescheduled to later this year.

When ticket sales for the down-under event spiked at the start of this year, the championship was thus cancelled soon after, and officials have only recently confirmed that tickets purchased pre-COVID will now be valid, with even more tickets set to release soon.

The new scheduled race on November 20 to 21st will be an incredibly important one, now holding more significance as results will help shape who the leaders will be going into the next and final round at Sydney's SuperNight.

Officials are also working on a number of safety precautions like social distancing and capacity numbers, hoping that restrictions would have eased later in the year, and to inevitably pack the venue out.

Lastly, the Derwent Entertainment Centre upgrade will begin in the coming months as an ambitious race to have it complete and ready by the 2021-22 NBL season begins. The 68 and a half-million-dollar redevelopment will bring the stadium up to a world-class standard, and by confirming the upgrades, NBL boss Larry Kestleman has also agreed to licence Tasmania re-entry into the competition as the tenth side.

With around 60 days-worth of consultations, construction should begin after this, and with the season set to begin next October, some mention the two years-worth of developments will need to be complete in just under one.

And that's what's making news headlines on the 3rd of July.