

As of 7am this morning, correctional officers have declined to accept any overtime hours or a recall of duty for shifts in a 24-hour period, due to industrial action towards poor working conditions and the understaffing of facilities.

The United Workers Union said that the officers have rejected the recent Hodgman Government's pay offer, saying that it does not adequately recognise the value and skills of workers, nor does it represent the amount of responsibility their jobs involve. Since correctional officers walked off the job back in June this year, and again last Thursday, today's demonstrations would again impact on out-of-cell hours, designated programs, professional appointments and transport for prisoners to and from court. Further administration bans are set to commence next week.

As of next year, a new ban on mobile phone use in school classrooms will come into effect, in a state-wide attempt to curb the increasing number of cyber bullying incidents, and keep students more focussed on school tasks.

Education minister Jeremy Rockliff has stated that the motion to ban all mobile devices between the morning and afternoon bells in public schools throughout Tasmania would go ahead as of term 2, 2020.

This comes in conjunction with the results of a recent survey published by the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations, where 948 parents, teaching staff and students responded in regards to their thoughts on the matter.

While the results were fairly inconclusive, with 47% believing phones should NOT be allowed at school, 45% responded otherwise, with the final 8% being totally undecided.

Regardless of the survey's findings, the state government's policy will come into effect indefinitely, and it will then be up to the state schools themselves to decide how they police the new ban.

And a coroner has handed down his findings in a fatal jet ski incident that occurred at Lake Travallyn Dam near Launceston in early 2017. Luke Jesse Rice was struck in the head by a friend's jet ski, thrown metres from his own ski, and was unable to be revived on his way to the Launceston General Hospital.

Baden Glen Apted was riding dangerously close behind Rice, when Rice seemed to lose control and stop abruptly. That was when Apted's ski rear ended the one in front, fatally striking Rice to the head, causing serious brain injury.

Coroner Simon Cooper published his findings today, saying that neither Rice nor Apted were licenced to drive their jet skis, saying quote "this tragic case illustrates a fatal lack of attention to proper safety culture."

Mr Apted pleaded guilty to a number of complaints in relation to the fatal incident back in November last year, and was convicted today on all charges and fined \$4000.

To sports news now, and in local cricket George Bailey will play his last match for the Tasmanian Tigers against South Australia in the final Sheffield Shield match before the Big Bash break.

Bailey will inevitably take to the field one last time, to representing his state in test match cricket, while also seeing out the BBL season with the Hurricanes, to which he'll then take up a position as a national selector.

Tigers captain Jordan Silk is confident the team can bounce back from their abysmal collapse at the hands of Queensland last week, while also giving Bailey one final win as a well-earned send off to his monumental career.

And just finally, with the North Melbourne AFLW team visiting Hobart this weekend, coach Scott Gowans has praised the many Tasmanian players coming up through

the ranks, hoping to see a number of them match ready, and maybe line up for game 1 in February.

He says quote "a lot of the 15 to 18 girls who are training down here, in another two or three years are going to be pushing the older girls for a spot on the team, and that's exactly what you want as a coach."

And that's what's making news for the 6th of December