

A handful of Hobart pub and club owners have urged for an easing of internal restriction throughout Tasmania in order to help reboot the industry, while also keeping the borders closed and stopping any potential spread in the island state.

Building on Premier Peter Gutwein's statement last week about Tasmania being one of the safest places in the world, Tasmanian Small Business Council chief executive Robert Mallett mentioned today that it's time for us to stand on our own two feet.

With Salamanca and other pubs and small businesses still restricted and unable to operate at full capacity, Mr Mallett was accompanied by Pub Blanc Group's managing director Ian Vaughan – the owner of countless pubs and nightclubs across Hobart – Customs House Hotel owner Paul Jubb and Rose Flynn, the owner of a small souvenir shop, Little Aussie Snugglebuds. The business owners all expressed their troubles while only operating under the already crippling restrictions.

Social distancing rules have seen many pub-goers frustrated at not being allowed entrance across the waterfront and if restrictions were lifted entirely, these venues could begin to operate as normal and generate much-needed income to also wean themselves off government stimulus packages.

Weather charts have tipped for snow to fall to as low as sea level early next week as an extreme cold front crosses late Monday and into Tuesday.

This possible minus 38-degree polar air mass at 18 thousand feet could bring with it sea level snowfall and dumpings of up to half a metre across the Western and

Central highlands, not to mention an estimated 5.2cm of snow within Hobart city itself.

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Belinda House mentioned that the cold weather may encroach sometime later this weekend, with the more complex low and cold front to cross the south west on Monday, and with it, bringing the snowfall overnight and hanging around until Wednesday.

While this may be an outlandishly premature forecast, snow is more likely to fall at around 400 metres, and the last time snow even fell at sea level was in August 2015, and before that on July 25, 1986.

An iconic East Coast festival has been forced to cancel for this year due to coronavirus and the unforeseen circumstances between now and November.

The Bicheno Food and Wine Festival would have celebrated its 13th year, but it has been announced that the event will not go ahead this year, with Chairman David Reed saying the unpredictability and safety of local was of the utmost importance.

Bicheno residents were asked to have their say in a household survey, and a unanimous response from the community outlined that the festival was just too risky. Mr Reed and organisers are now looking to 2021 and are also urging all accommodation providers to offer full refunds to those who unluckily booked ahead.

As and in more positive news, the Glenorchy Fun Run will be going ahead on Sunday, marking its 30th birthday, but the track this year will be a lot less crowded.

Capped and sold out at 400 entrants, the race this year will include one of Australia's Rio Olympic marathon runners, Milly Clark, who travelled around the world this year only to be met with cancelled marathons in New York and Rotterdam, and is excited to compete in Tasmania against the like of previous winner Meriem Daoui and also Ruth Wilson.

The men's line-up is also a tough competition, featuring defending champion Nick Earl, 13-time winner of the race Grant Page, one of Tassie's cross-country champions Sam Clifford and also Ben Covington.

There are more casual and family-friendly events on the day in the 2- and 5-kilometre races, but the prestigious 10k race starts and finishes at the Derwent Entertainment Centre, taking in the GASP boardwalk, the Montrose foreshore and also Wilkinson Point.

Lastly in sports news now and in basketball, round five of the SBL has seen the Glenorchy Spartans overcome the Hobart Phoenix to claim victory and sweat revenge after a disappointing grand final loss to the Phoenix last season.

The Spartans managed to take a double-digit lead in the third quarter after what was an incredibly even match-up, running away winners at 67 to 61.

Young gun Jack Stanwix top scored for the Spartans with 21 points, while in the other game, Grenadiers had their first win of the condensed season, running away winners against the Southern Wolves, 81 to 67.

And that's what's making news headlines on the 31st of July.