

A man in the state's north has pleaded guilty to armed robbery and will spend 2 years and 8 months behind bars, after the magistrate found his premeditated actions may cause a young worker lasting psychological harm. In mid-April, 42-year-old, Mark James Smith was high on the drug ice when he entered an Ulverstone Subway wearing a face mask and washing up gloves, and proceeded to threatened the lone 17-year-old worker with a knife, demanding her to empty the till into his bag. Smith made off with 348 dollars, to which he immediately used to purchase more drugs, and his arrest was swift as police recognised his clothing when they watched the incident back on CCTV.

Charged on one count of armed robbery, one for using methamphetamines, another for using cannabis and finally, for failing to comply with mandatory coronavirus isolation restrictions, Smith will not be eligible for parole until he's served 16 months in prison.

After 40 years of printing, the Tasmanian Country should have arrived in people's mailboxes today for the very last time.

This comes after News Corp Australia's announcement only last month, that indicated there would be massive changes and also closures to over 100 print newspaper outlets across the country, in a bold move to port the majority over to online distribution.

The Tasmanian Country was the only newspaper effected by this move, and the Mercury and the Sunday Tasmanian will continue to publish seven days a week for both print and online.

Even more COVID restrictions have been lifted as of midday today, with Stage 3 being brought forward, that will now allow up to 500 people gathered at outdoor events and 250 for many indoor premises, according to density limits.

This means that businesses like pubs, restaurants and cafes will be able to cater for a larger number of people – depending on the venue’s maximum capacity – while also adhering to the new limits of 1 person per 2 square metres.

These same rules apply to other newly permitted venues like casinos, nightclubs, food courts, supermarkets, airports, shopping centres and universities for example. Most notably, is that of nightclubs and confined overnight venues where alcohol is regularly served, and activities that are not seated, like dancing and pool, are strictly not permitted.

While outdoor sporting establishments will be able to allow up to 500 people in attendance – including players and support staff – household and shack visits still remain limited to 20 people at any one time.

Following on, and it’s only just this evening that Premier Peter Gutwein has congratulated our state in being so resilient, and recording no new cases for 41 days now, also more importantly, announcing that our borders will be set to reopen four weeks from now, on Friday July 24.

This move comes after much resistance from locals and politicians who both support and condemn the opening, but Mr Gutwein has assured everyone that as this date looms closer, there will be constant reviews from Public Health and other authorities, and if he is advised to do so,

**he will not hesitate to delay this very important decision,
and retract on the proposed date.**

**Just lastly in sports news now, Australia and New Zealand
have officially won the opportunity to host the FIFA
Women's World Cup in 2023.**

**As the announcement came late last night, the two
Australasian nations won the bidding rights to host the
competition, and with this, the future prospect of games
being played in Tasmania, UTAS Stadium in Launceston
is shaping up to be most ideal venue for the state.**

**With three possible games coming to Tasmania,
Launceston mayor Albert van Zetten said the news was
incredibly exciting and not only a huge opportunity for the
north, but the state in general.**

**With the competition still years away, van Zetten touted
the stadium as being multi-faceted and able to facilitate
such high calibre sporting events. Also going on to
highlight the multitude of economic benefits, coupled with
the opportunity for the next generation of female athletes
to get up close and personal with their idols and aspire for
greatness and relish in the excitement.**

**And that's what's making news headlines on the 26th of
June.**