

The Launceston City Council has granted the University of Tasmania a lease transfer of The Show Society's Inveresk site, allowing the uni to commence a new \$4.5-million-dollar carpark development.

The agreement came about yesterday, in motion that the University would pay The Show Society \$1.3 million dollars in exchange for the Inveresk area that will provide upwards of 1,100 parking spaces for both student and public use.

With the already proposed upgrade developments to the UTAS precinct, the carpark will more than adequately meet parking requirements, and UTAS Vice-Chancellor for Launceston Professor Dom Geraghty says quote "We think this is a strong proposal that provides a good outcome for the university, the city of Launceston and the Show Society."

Additionally, the Hawthorn Football Club Tasmania state manager David Cox mentions the development will also benefit spectators attending AFL games in the state's north.

A national wine makers award, titled "50 Best Young Wine Labels and Winemakers in Australia" has recognised a number of local Tasmanian Young Guns of Wine.

A total of six awards were received by Tasmanians, including James Broinowski of Small Island Wines, Jonathan Hughes from Mewstone Wines, Greer Carland from Quiet Mutiny, Jillie and Paul Lipscombe from Sailor Seeks Horse, Ricky Evans of Two Tonnes Tasmania and Hugh McColour of Wellington & Wolfe.

Small Island Wines co-founder Mr Broinowski says winning the award is very special, mentioning quote "we certainly weren't expecting it given there are a lot of exceptional wine makers who put their wine forward across Australia."

A man has been sentenced in Hobart for indecent exposure, dangerous driving, possessing a prohibited substance and a myriad of other charges after finally appearing in front of the court this week from his crimes dating back to 2017.

57-year-old Brett Langdon Wescombe ingested a large number of synthetic drugs that he purchased online and proceeded to flash his genitals at a dog-walker at a suburban park, then drive in an erratic and unpredictable manner on the East Derwent and Tasman highways.

Tailgating other cars, cutting off numerous drivers and driving at excessive speeds of more than 110 kilometres an hour on the Tasman Highway, Wescombe even came to a complete stop, forcing a truck to swerve, only narrowly missing his vehicle.

Police eventually arrested Wescombe masturbating in a Warrane carpark where he tested positive to MDMA and cannabis, but escaped police custody momentarily when being escorted to conduct a routine blood test.

Justice Michael Brett dismissed Wescombe's appeal that he had no memory of the events, saying he did not have reduced culpability because of intoxication, but it was ruled that the indecent exposure was highly out of character.

Wescombe pleaded guilty and was given an 18-month home detention order and must undergo regular drug testing by a parole officer, and has been suspended from driving for three years.

Aaand Cottage School in Bellerive will be closing its doors to students until further notice as of next Thursday, after nearly a third of the school was marked absent yesterday.

The school already has a small number of students enrolled, but with the coronavirus having notable impacts on school attendance across the state, the Cottage School committee held a meeting last night agreeing to close the school and facilitate students' learning from home.

School leader Julie Leitch mentions that students will be given learning packages and resources to take home with them, and specific software will be loaded onto iPads and laptops so students can stay connected with teachers and classmates.

Lastly in sports news, and staying with the coronavirus, Collingwood president Eddie McGuire has voiced his concerns about the ramification COVID-19 has had on the AFL, and also how it may have inevitably pushed back the prospects of a Tasmanian team even further.

Speaking on Fox Footy overnight, McGuire mentioned that, given how much the pandemic has impacted on the game already, a Tassie team may be coming into the competition as far away as a decade's time - instead of only months or years.

While this is only speculation, AFL Taskforce chairman Brett Godfrey acknowledges the debilitating circumstances surrounding the league right now, but is adamant that ten years IS too long and a more hopeful 2025 timeframe is more achievable.

And that's what's making news headlines on the 20th of March