

Researchers at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, in association with Cancer Research UK have just concluded that the Tasmanian Devil facial tumour disease may hold the key in improving cancer treatment outcomes in humans.

Scientists have discovered that some human cancers share similar features to the tumours so prevalent in the Tasmanian Devils, in that there is a common factor in the reduction in the amount of immune-stimulating MHC Class-1 proteins present on their surface.

The tumours have a way of masking themselves and evading recognition and further destruction by the immune system, to which Dr Marian Burr of Peter MacCallum says quote "Identifying how and why these tumours undergo this process of hiding from the immune system may help to improve treatment outcomes."

By further understanding the nature of the Tasmanian Devil's facial tumours, researchers hope to boost immune-based cancer therapies for sufferers of melanomas in particular.

A new pilot program will begin on Monday that hopes to drastically reduce wait times for young learner drivers sitting their provisional practical tests.

Currently, learner drivers may book their P1 test in advance for when they will be become eligible, but wait times across the state vary anywhere from 17 days in Burnie, right up to six weeks in Hobart.

Under the new 12-month program, four newly accredited assessors will be trialed as a means of reducing the current wait times, by allowing drivers to conduct their test outside of regular operating hours.

Hobart Alderman Tanya Denison has led the way in an innovative proposal that would see the underground Hobart Rivulet utilised as a pedestrian and cyclist trail.

The Council's Infrastructure Committee came to a unanimous vote that would direct council officers to prepare a report into the idea in the coming weeks.

A big concern about the proposal relates heavily to insurance and users' health and safety, to which Denison says can easily be counteracted through innovative engineering solutions like adequate lighting, temperature-controlled moderators, and the addition of coffee carts and bench seating.

And, well known greyhound trainer Gavin Whitney has been banned for life after being found guilty of using animal skin to educate and train young racing dogs. The sentence followed a routine kennel inspection on the 12th of September, when stewards found a wallaby skin in a trailer Whitney alleges he uses to move rubbish to and from the tip.

Whitney was charged on two counts, the first, pleading guilty to the wallaby skin being found on his property, saying it was about to be taken to the tip, and the second, to which he pleaded unsuccessfully not guilty, by way of using the skin as a bait, quarry or lure to entice, excite or encourage a greyhound to pursue the material.

Finally, to sport, in the Women's Big Bash League, the Hobart Hurricanes have revealed their two brand new overseas imports.

English batter Fran Wilson joins the team fresh from spending last season at the Sydney Thunder. She's played 27 one-day one day internationals and 17 T20 internationals for England, and maintains a long relationship with the Hurricanes coach.

The second player joining the ranks is 25-year-old South African all-rounder Chloe Tryon.

She's played an impressive 74 ODI's and 57 T20 internationals for the Proteas, showcasing her left-arm medium-fast bowling and right-hand batting.

And just lastly, obviously good luck to all those watching the AFL Grand Final tomorrow afternoon.

I hope your team gets up, and your voice doesn't completely brake.

With an expected 100,000 plus capacity at the MCG, the Tigers are going in as favourites, while this being the Giants first final's birth in their whole eight year's they've been in the competition.

Teams will remain relatively unchanged, with the Tigers welcoming debutant Marlion Pickett into the side, while GWS welcome back Toby Greene and Lachie Whitfield.

And they're the news headlines for the 27th of September