

A fire has threatened properties early this morning in the Waverley Flora Park in Mornington, which burned around 2 hectares of forest, and coming within 100 metres of homes.

Twelve crews from the Tasmanian Fire service attended the scene at 2:20am this morning, and after winds pushed the out of control blaze closer to houses, an advice warning was issued soon after for Warren Court, McClements Street and also Nankoor Crescent in Howrah.

Crews had the fire contained by around 6:20am, but emergency services have requested people stay away from the area, as a number of trees were damaged by fire and may pose a serious risk to those wishing to use the park.

Launceston Police have thanked members of the public who assisted in the arrest of two individuals who recklessly discharged firearms on more than one occasion.

The month-long investigation led to a 28-year-old Invermay man, and a 17-year-old South Launceston teenager being taken into custody for their actions in relation to firing the stolen weapons; fortunately, no one was harmed on either occasion. The incidents occurred at New Street, Invermay on December 19 and also at Warring Street in Ravenswood on December 28.

The pair will appear in court in the coming weeks.

A popular and iconic pub and music venue has only very recently been sold, sparking an uproar from the public, and leaving its employees fearful about the future of their positions, and the establishment.

The Republic Bar and Café in North Hobart has been sold on to restaurant franchisees Pub Bank Group, who also own a majority of pubs and clubs around Hobart

including Cargo Bar, Jack Greene, Post Street Social, the Telegraph Hotel and The Observatory Bar.

With the change in owners also comes the possible change in staff, and while a Pub Bank spokesman has said the company is unable to comment on what this change may mean for the current staff, until after the sale settlement on February 4, Jannette Armstrong of the United Workers Union said Republic Bar staff will come together next week to discuss their future.

Armstrong mentioned that the impending new owners have given staff little to no indication on the future direction for the bar, nor in relation to its staffing arrangements.

She went on to say that the union has been informed that permanent staff have already been made redundant, saying quote "it is disappointing Pub Bank has chosen not to keep on the core staff who have made The Repub the friendly, welcoming, well-PATRONised institution it is."

Aaand just quickly, with the unsettling tensions in the middle east between Iran and America, petrol prices may be set to increase if the situation escalates.

Tasmania's peak motoring body warns that the state could be the worst effected if things keep on as they are in the middle east.

The price of oil skyrocketed last week when the tensions begun, resulting in the commodity sitting at its most expensive since September last year. This also coincides with the ACCC's latest quarterly report showing Hobart had the highest petrol prices of any capital city in Australia.

To sports news now, and in the BBL, the Hobart Hurricanes have brought in paceman Jake Reed as an injury replacement in time for their clash against the Sydney Thunder tomorrow evening.

Due to young quick Riley Meredith's tournament-ending side strain and James Faulkner at least one more week away from being match fit, Reed may be the answer the Hurricanes need after their five-wicket loss last night to the Brisbane Heat.

Reed has previously had 3 seasons with Hobart and with skipper Matthew Wade now also back in the side, Jake Doran, Mac Wright and David Moody also help to bolster the dwindling side.

And that's what's making news headlines on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January