



State's seventh Covid death in three days

ROB INGLIS

TASMANIA has recorded its seventh Covid-19 death in the space of just three days, with two people losing their lives to the virus overnight Wednesday.

It brings the state's death toll since the beginning of the pandemic to 41.

Premier and Health Minis-

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ter Jeremy Rockliff confirmed on Thursday that a woman in her 60s had died at Royal Hobart Hospital, while a woman in her 80s died in a residential aged-care facility.

"I extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of the two women who have sadly passed away," Mr Rockliff said.

The state recorded 1843 new Covid cases on Thursday, after 1839 were detected the previous day.

There are 10,765 active cases across Tasmania.

Fifty people are being treat-

ed for the virus in hospital. Of these patients, 22 are being treated specifically for Covid, with one person in the ICU.

Mr Rockliff reminded Tasmanians that people most at risk from Covid were now eligible to receive a second booster shot.

"This includes those 65 years and over, residents of aged care and disability facili-

ties, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 50 and over, and people who are severely immunocompromised," the Premier said.

"Those eligible can also get their flu shot at the same time, so I strongly recommend booking in for both doses with your GP or pharmacy at the earliest opportunity."

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Alarm at skating rink sale

Building to be art gallery

ROB INGLIS

THE state's only ice skating rink will be repurposed after being sold to a mystery buyer, prompting fears ice sports could become a thing of the past in Tasmania.

After 42 years in operation, the Kaitinis family has sold the Glenorchy Ice Skating Rink, with sisters Beverley and Janina Kaitinis looking to retire.

Tasmania is the only state in the country without a full-sized ice rink and now it will have no rink at all.

The Mercury understands the new owner plans to establish an art gallery at the site.

Manager Janina Kaitinis said it was a bittersweet feeling to have sold the place that had been such a big part of her and her family's lives.

"It's surreal," she said. "This was purpose-built by my family. Now we're retiring."

"There's nobody in the family that really wants to continue running (the ice rink)."

A group called Ice Sports Tasmania (IST) formed in February in an attempt to either preserve the ice rink or alternatively build a new full-sized training facility.

IST president Anna Holliday said the sale had "shattered" the dreams of children and adult competitors.

"In the short-term, what it means is that there is no option for our sports to continue," she said.

The Glenorchy Ice Skating

Rink has primarily been used for recreational skating, competitive figure skating and ice hockey.

Ms Holliday said IST had formed a relationship with an interstate investor group who had committed to buy the rink on the condition the state government agreed in-principle to eventually build an Olympic-sized ice rink, with the investor group to pay 60 per cent of the costs.

"The government said no to that opportunity last week and cited their instability due to the resignation of their premier (Peter Gutwein)," Ms Holliday said.

Ms Kaitinis said she would have liked to have seen IST buy the rink with the help of the state government and the Glenorchy City Council.

"I feel bad for all the people that are invested in skating - all the kids," she said.

Glenorchy Mayor Bec Thomas said the council would "continue to support (IST) in their quest to find a new home, as much as possible".

Sport and Recreation Minister Nic Street said it wouldn't have been "appropriate" for the government to "interfere" in a private sale process.

"I will remain in contact with (IST) as they work to secure the future of their sports in Tasmania and assist wherever possible," he said.

The rink closes for good on May 22.

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MENZIES FINDS WAY TO SHINE THROUGH ADVERSITY



Michelle Menzies was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer almost 14 years ago.

LINDA SMITH

BEING diagnosed with a rare and incurable cancer at the age of 19 was not part of the life that Michelle Menzies had for her life.

She had been happily studying teaching at university, with plans to eventually travel and teach overseas.

She also dreamt of one day meeting the man of her dreams, getting married and having children. But being diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia, a treatable but incurable form

of blood cancer which is rare among young people, turned her world upside down.

"I felt very robbed for a long time," said Menzies, who was initially told the medication she was taking would keep her alive for about seven years.

It has now been almost 14 years since her diagnosis and the 33-year-old from Orleton credits a journey of gratitude and self-discovery for saving her life. She runs her own business, Shine Through You, working as a "joy and gratitude coach" to help others find happiness and

work through challenging life circumstances.

Her clients are often looking for something "more" but need help to discover what exactly that something "more" is.

Many are mums with young children, others are newly divorced, some are searching for their soulmate, while others want to switch careers or make major life changes. And along the way, Menzies has made some life-changing "miracle" discoveries of her own. **READ MORE IN TASWEEKEND TOMORROW**

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