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PAGE 47

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SPORT



AFL TEAM

KEY TASSIE ROLE REVEALED TODAY, P5

Actor Marta Dusseldorp, the star and co-producer of TV drama Bay Of Fires, turns out to the Thursday night premiere in Hobart with her Tasmanian co-stars, from left, Gracie Lydon, Jacob Franklin, Molly Perkins and Tracey Zhou. Pictures: Nikki Davis-Jones

Showbiz buzz around our Bay Of Fires

STORY PAGE 12



TEENS SKIP CLASSROOM

Report card reveals a slide in Year 12 numbers

Almost one in five Tasmanian schools that have been extended to Year 12 are recording daily attendance rates of less than 60 per cent, sparking calls for a review of the state government's flagship policy. **ROB INGLIS REPORTS, P7**

Greyhounds charity row

Alex Treacy

Ronald McDonald House in fundraiser link

A charity which helps accommodate parents and families of seriously ill children while they undergo treatment has found itself in the middle of the ongoing greyhound wars, after news it had accepted a sponsorship worth about \$30,000 from Tasmanian racing clubs.

Ronald McDonald House Charities has endured a storm of correspondence questioning its choice in partner, news that angered Tasracing chief executive Andrew Jenkins.

Last Thursday, Tasmania's three greyhound racing clubs, united under the banner of Greyhounds Tasmania, hosted

the Ronald McDonald House Charity Night at Ladbroke's Park, Elwick, consisting of a dinner, auction and running of the inaugural Ronald McDonald House Charity Cup.

Fiona Millerchip, RMHC Hobart manager, previously said the organisation was "thrilled" with the sponsorship, which was expected to raise more than \$30,000.

But the tie-in has not sat well with greyhound activists, at least nine of which wrote to RMHC to question its choice of partner. Their correspondence

was obtained by the Mercury.

Rosie Saville, co-founder of the Greyhound Rehabilitation Enthusiasts Association Tasmania, paid tribute to the "outstanding work [RMHC] do for families in crisis".

"Having said that I was saddened and perplexed that you have chosen to align your brand with the greyhound racing industry," she wrote.

"I implore you to consider where you align your beautiful brand and consider not aligning it with a brand that relies on overbreeding and killing dogs

in the name of gambling, not to mention the untold damage gambling addiction does to vulnerable children and their families."

Deborah Fleming, the former ABC producer who lives full-time in the Huon Valley, said that the money raised was "surely dirty money".

"At the very least it is a most unsavoury connection," she wrote.

Tasracing's Mr Jenkins said the views of a "selfish minority" were harming the interests of charitable organisations that

wanted to work with the racing industry.

"It is extremely disappointing – but not at all surprising – that critics and opponents of the racing industry cannot accept that Tasmanian charitable organisations and sporting clubs want to work with us to fundraise, and are targeting them," he said.

"Tasmanian racing clubs across the state are respected, corporate citizens that, as strong community contributors, are happy to provide support to important organisations

like Ronald McDonald House – as Tasracing itself has done previously."

An RMHC Victoria and Tasmania spokeswoman said that the charity had seen a "significant increase in the number of families relying on our services this year, which makes us even more grateful for the continued support from businesses and the public".

The row comes amid a fourth trackside greyhound death in Tasmania for 2023.

A new stewards' report from Hobart on June 27, shows the Shayne Bond-owned Just Like Jazzy "did not complete the event after faltering on the track [and] died shortly after".



Kingston Park won an Award of Excellence in the Parks and Open Space category of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Tasmanian state awards. Picture: Supplied

Winning at park life engages us all

Sue Bailey

The importance of "doing more with less" and respecting traditional owners of the land have been highlighted in awards for Tasmania's landscape architects.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects has announced seven projects from a public park at Kingston to a private garden in Launceston as winners of its annual state awards.

Jury chair Naomi Barun said the winners showed the positive impact landscape architects had on Tasmanians' lives. "This year's entries demonstrated some big learnings across the industry



Inveresk Urban Realm took out an award in the Civic Landscape category. Pictures: Supplied

in cultural engagement and value," she said.

"There was a real maturity both in the engagement and respect that landscape architecture practices had for traditional owners, and the cultural connection they have with these places."

Kingston Park won an award for excellence in the parks and open space category, Inveresk Urban Realm won for civic landscape, Harriet's Garden in Launceston for small projects and St Cuthbert's Early Years Centre at



Lindisfarne and Lansdowne Crescent Primary for education.

West Tamar Trails and the Early Discovery Learning Centre in Launceston also won awards.

Ms Barun said the Kingston playground, designed by

Playstreet for the Kingborough Council, had become a "regional destination that is loved by locals".

"Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture was a crucial aspect of the design, and Playstreet undertook extensive consultation to ensure sensitivity to country," she said.

The jury commended Playstreet for "rooting their design process in deep collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, artists and the broader local community."

"(It) is a park that skilfully connects into a broader network of open space, responding to the history and culture of the place."

Housing trust in fight with red tape

Rob Inglis

A private sector organisation dedicated to building community housing has celebrated the opening of a new disability accommodation development at New Norfolk – but it has warned that without further government funding, its ability to construct more dwellings will be limited.

The Supported Affordable Accommodation (SAA) Trust officially opened three two-bedroom units and a shared unit with a carer's hub, managed by Montagu Community Living, in the heart of the Derwent Valley on Thursday.

Since securing a \$6m federal grant with the assistance of independent Clark MP Andrew Wilkie, the SAA Trust has designed and constructed 27 two-bedroom units on nine sites across the state.

The trust uses earnings generated by its grant-funded units to reinvest into future builds.

But now that it's exhausted its grant funding, SAA Trust founder and chair Bob Gordon said the organisation could only pursue new projects with donations, bequests and its own borrowings.

Mr Gordon said new regulations meant that the trust would need to become a registered housing provider in order to be eligible for further grant funding.

"We've embarked on that path but it is a complicated bureaucratic process that could take us about 12 months," he said.

Federal Housing Minister Julie Collins, who attended the opening, said projects such as the New Norfolk accommodation development would be built at a much quicker rate if the Albanese government's \$10b Housing Australia Future Fund passed parliament when debated for a second time in the Senate come October.