

**A new CEO has been appointed at the Launceston Airport following a structural review that saw the position made vacant only months ago.**

**The previous general manager, Paul Hodgen, was made redundant in late April after a review into the airport's management and also the future impacts that Covid-19 would bring, and earlier today, former Tourism Tasmania director of aviation and access development, Han Van Pelt was assigned the position.**

**In his new role, Mr Van Pelt will be tasked with driving tourism growth and aviation in the state's north, as well as trying to bring much-needed tourism numbers back to the state as travel restrictions continue to ease.**

**Sounding optimistic and enthusiastic about the task ahead, Mr Van Pelt mentioned how excited he is to get the airport back up and running and how rewarding this new opportunity will be.**

**A Hobart hotel housing a number of quarantined personnel has had to be evacuated following a fire alarm yesterday evening.**

**Occupants at the Travelodge in Macquarie Street were forced outside and onto the street as the fire brigade responded to an overheating microwave.**

**It's understood that foil had been warmed inside the appliance, and was extinguished quickly.**

**Respondents congratulated patrons on their swift evacuation of the building, and their adherence to social distancing and personal protective equipment.**

**And a woman has fronted court today over the alleged murder of her 71-year-old mother, local Launceston**

**woman and affiliate of the local Labour party, Veronica Corstorphine.**

**Corstorphine's body was found in late October last year, and, speaking in front of the Launceston supreme court today, state forensic pathologist Donald Ritchie said the cause of death was likely the act of asphyxiation.**

**Dr Ritchie stated, quote "there weren't any broken ribs or other violent injuries apparent to the organs of the body", also mentioning that the lack of any trauma, and viewing police body-cam footage which depicted a pillow covering the face of the heavily decomposed corpse, would likely suggest that smothering with a pillow was the main cause of death.**

**Corstorphine's daughter, Natalie Maher, was a prime suspect and was extradited back into the state from Western Australia only months ago, to now be in custody in Launceston – to which she appeared via video link and pleaded not guilty in court today.**

**The case was adjourned, and Ms Maher will return to court on August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**To sports news now, and the TSL kicks off its second round this weekend, the condensed season – now cut by one third – has teams playing 12 home-and-away matches and every game more challenging than the next.**

**Glenorchy coach Paul Kennedy is adamant that, even after losing to Launceston last week, they can bounce back and avoid going naught and two against Lauderdale at SkyBus Oval tomorrow.**

**The Pies welcome back Cameron Goodsell, but skipper Brayden Webb remains several weeks from being match fit, while Jaye Bowden is unlikely to make an appearance either.**

**Lauderdale will gain co-captain Bryce Walsh after he left the game early last week due to groin soreness, and Mitch Anderton will play his first match of the season.**

**Just lastly, the Hobart Hurricanes are set to do a lot of travelling in this seasons BBL, after an equally gruelling road trip set the pace at the beginning of last season. If everything goes to plan in the coming months, and isn't further disturbed by Covid restrictions, the Hurricanes will play an intensive three games in just five days, beginning in Perth on January 6, heading to Geelong two days later, and arriving on home soil to play at Blundstone Arena on January 10.**

**Coach Adam Griffith says the whirlwind trip across Australia is nothing out of the ordinary after last years similar fixture, and believes the team are more than capable to handle the challenge.**

**Their next game will fall on January 15 on the Gold Coast, while also acquiring the New Years Eve game against the Strikers for the first time in six years.**

**And that's what's making news headlines on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.**