

THOUGHT DIGEST



NEWS THAT MATTERS

HOBART, TASMANIA

SNAPSHOTS

Weekly Bytes



COMMUNITY PROGRAM SET TO MAKE CHANGE

We have a variety of community-based programs making change in the Hobart community over the next coming months (See page 3)

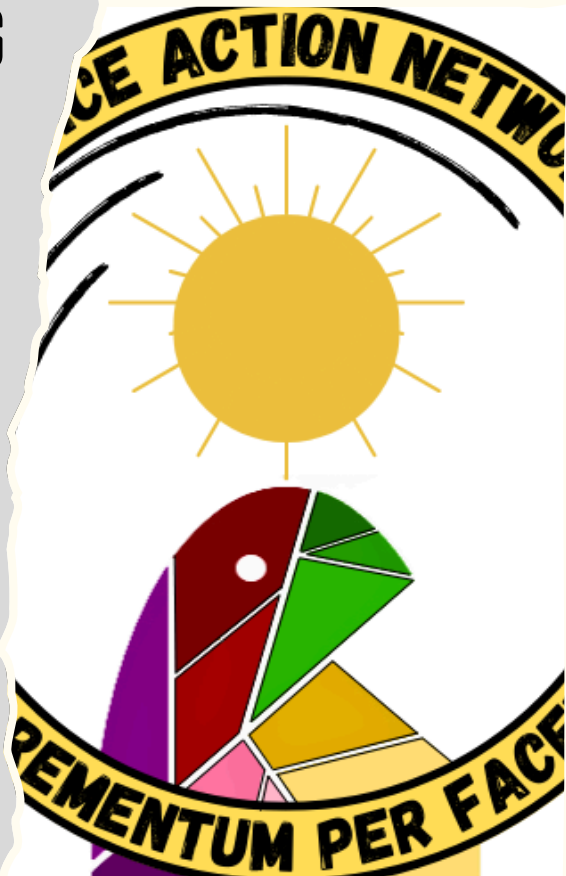
ANNUAL PROCESSION HITS HOBART STREETS

BY HEATH CLARK
SUNDAY 2ND JUNE

On Sunday, the Archdiocese of Hobart conducted its annual Walk With Christ procession through Hobart Streets. The event coincides with the Feast of Corpus Christi, celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. leader of the Catholic church in Tasmania, Julian Porteous proclaimed "Today is the day where we can give expression to our faith". The event attracted more than 120 people from all across the state and beyond, and it was a great opportunity to "strengthen connections with the community" An event participant stated.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED BY 3.75 PERCENT

Australia's Minimum wage is set to increase by 3.75 per cent on July 1st, upgrading the base award from \$23.23 to 24.10 (con. page 2)



NEW SPORTING PROGRAM HITS THE COURTS AT SWISHERR

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

Last Thursday, local business Offcourt Sports held it's first Public court hire and community session @ Swisherr Hoops Academy, Hobart. The Program is aimed at getting people into the sport of pickleball and allows the community to get in contact with court specialist experts such as Will Ponsonby and Mark Steczkowicz, who have a combined 25+ years experience in the the industry, being board members/presidents of various associations such as Badminton Tasmania and STBA. The session provides exposure for people to get into the sport, but also an opportunity for people to talk with the shop staff about the sport, as well as recommendations for products. the sessions are only \$10/hr and all equipment is provided for play, which includes a range of demo products that Offcourt sells.



MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE BY 3.75 PERCENT

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE

Heading over to some national news this week, the minimum wage has increased by 3.75%, down from the demanded 5% from unions, and just above the acceptable 2% from big business (AFR, 2024). This is welcome news as it will help relieve pressure from the cost-of-living crisis. This also goes in hand with last month's Federal budget, which had confirmed \$300 energy rebates as well as the July 1st tax cuts (Jim Chalmers, 2024). Although the minimum wage has been increased, Australian's are still worse off due to wage increases failing to keep up with inflation.



ECONOMY GRINDING TO A HALT, 0.1% GDP GROWTH

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE

Australia's economy is barley grew last quarter, at a meager 0.1% according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2024), with many economists concerned we will enter a full recession by the year's end. We are already in a Per-Capita recession which has worsened by 0.4% over the last three months, with a 1.4% decline over the past year. Although not labeled as an official recession (2 quarters of negative GDP growth), people are still feeling the impacts of a stretched economy, which has been able to delay a recession due to unexpectedly high commodity prices, as well as tourists and students. With foreign students alone spending over \$43 Billion dollars in the Australian economy last year (ABS, 2023).

COMMUNITY PROGRAM SET TO MAKE CHANGE

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE

Recently the Justice Action Network (A Catholic Intra-school network) held it's first meeting discussing the final stages of planning for an upcoming youth conference on the 4th July. This year's theme is "Venture", with a focus on igniting social enterprise as a tool for good. the conference will host many Catholic schools from around the state such as Guilford Young College, Dominic, Sacred Heart, Mackillop and so on. the project is a revamp of the original network managed by school staff and teachers back in the 2010s but faced difficulty operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. fortunately this community program is back and received a grant of over \$10,000 from the Mary Mackillop Today foundation late last year.

The team at Thought Digest are looking forward to covering this event in the near future, where we will show some highlights of the day and the actions that come from it.

2024 JUSTICE ACTION DAY
VENTURE
IGNITING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AS A TOOL FOR GOOD

THE DETAILS
 4TH JULY 2023
 50 OLINDA GROVE, MOUNT NELSON
 9.15 AM - 2.30 PM

PRESENTED BY
 THE JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK
 GUILFORD YOUNG COLLEGE
 JOSEPHITE MISSION AND HISTORY CENTRE
 AND MARY MACKILLOP TODAY

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 7/6/24

SHUTTLES FLYING WITH THE ALL ABILITIES BADMINTON PROGRAM

On Saturday, many members of our Hobart special needs community had the opportunity to play at the Badminton Tasmania All Abilities Badminton Program hosted @ STBA every Saturday. The program which started out as a community project by Declan Ee and Chloe Chong has become a massive engagement program for the special needs community in Tasmania, consistently holding weekly sessions and supported by grants from both the State and Hobart City Council. some participants such as Cameron (bottom left) has been participating the program since it's inception in 2019!

Heading this program is Lasse Bundgaard (former Australian Head Coach), who along with his team of volunteers is able to deliver such a fun and engaging 1 hour program every week.

If you know someone in the community who would like to participate, or if you would like to volunteer, contact lassebundgaard@outlook.com or call 0439201205 to organize next steps.



Lasse Bundgaard (Top Left), Cameroon (Bottom Left) both long time members of the program spanning into it's 6th Year.

HOBART'S YOUTH CRIME PROBLEM

The Youth Crime problem around the Hobart region has reached it's peak so far and has been slightly falling off over the last few months thanks to community engagement programs from organizations such as PCYC, JCP Youth. Despite these efforts "we are seeing an increase in the number of incidents on Public transport" an administration officer at Kinetic Tasmania stated. Unfortunately we are seeing an increase in bus driver abuse, violent bus behavior and even racial abuse to some of it's staff which is also prevalent on state run services such as Metro.



RESOLVING THE ISSUE

Over the last month, I was fortunate to meet with politicians such as Senator Johnno Duniam and Simon Behrakis (MP), who both expressed their concerns over the increase in youth crime. Liberal MP Behrakis has blamed the outblast of this issue on the mainstream media and Labor, who have criticized any attempts of the Rockliff Government in resolving the issue, as well as stigmatism of the controversial operation of Ashley's Detention center, and the inability of these groups to move on and work towards these issues constructively.

"right now there aren't enough sentencing options in Tasmania, you either get a small slap on the wrist, or receive maximum punishment" (Simon Behrakis, 2024)

FROM TEAM THOUGHT DIGEST

Thank you so much for reading our first standard edition of the weekly newsletter "Snapshots", we plan to cover interesting news and events in Hobart that the mainstream media doesn't cover enough of! we would so love it if you would be able to support us to help expand of operations, and continue our mission of bringing interesting and engaging content. be sure to follow us down below with the links provided to keep up to date. we will also be establishing a newsletter mailing list so keep on the lookout for that! - Team Thought Digest



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