



FIERCE FOR THE DANCE

P11

LIFESAVER

TRANSFORMED BY A NEW KIDNEY P3



A healthy platypus welcomes the rain in the Hobart Rivulet.
Picture: @hobartrivuletplatypus

WHY THE RAIN FITS THE BILL

The wet could not have been better timed for Hobart's platypuses **PAGE 5**



DOG POO DEBATE ERUPTS

Rob Inglis

A bitter and long-running dispute over the use of South Hobart Oval as an off-lead dog area comes before Hobart City Council on Monday with dog owners accused of not cleaning up after their pets. Dog lovers say they have been unfairly "maligned".

REPORT, PAGE 9

Glenorchy is state's pokies hotspot as Tassie players lose \$47m in three months

BIGGEST LOSER



Glenorchy tops the state as suffering the worst poker machine losses, with \$5m lost in just three months.

New data reveals \$27m was lost to poker machines in pubs and clubs across all council areas across the state in the first three months of the year with Launceston players losing \$4m and Hobart gamblers \$1m.

Another \$20m was lost in the state's two casinos.

The data has renewed calls for gaming reforms with independent Clark MP Kristie Johnston calling for the next government to bring in harm-minimisation measures for problem gamblers including a mandatory precommitment card after the Liberals "squeaked it" during the last term in parliament.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Hunt for mystery lotto winners

Clareese Packer

A group of Aussies could be secret millionaires as Lotto tickets worth more than \$100m remain unclaimed.

Aussies have been urged to check their lotto tickets to see if they could be one of the 17 mystery winners of prizes totalling a combined \$116m.

This includes a staggering \$100m prize from the June 12 Powerball this year.

The ticket was purchased at the Bondi Junction Newsagency & Internet Cafe in NSW.

Other major prizes yet to be claimed include \$4.8m from the Set for Life game on April 8, 2021, purchased at the Thistle Kiosk in the ACT.

Another Set for Life winner is yet to claim \$4.8m from the November 30, 2024 draw, the ticket bought at the Nexra Kiama, in NSW.

The majority of the unclaimed prizes are from NSW, the figure sitting at about \$107m followed by \$5.3m in the ACT, \$2.7m in Queensland, and \$1m in Victoria.

"Whether you're digging through old receipts in preparation for tax time or deep cleaning the house, keep an eye out for any unchecked lottery tickets," a Lott spokesperson said.

"We'd love to pair the winners with their prize!"

However, they warned prize claim periods vary across each state and territory.

Those in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia have only 12 months to claim their winnings, with the claim period extending to three years in the Northern Territory, six years in ACT and NSW, and seven years in Queensland.

Just last month a man from Wonthaggi, Victoria discovered he'd won more than \$2.1m from a ticket his wife gifted him for Christmas, but had forgotten to check as "life got in the way".

"It's very surreal," he said. "It will help many people!"



Pete Walsh at Hobart Rivulet, which has higher water levels after rain over the weekend, which is welcome news for his platypus pals (inset). Pictures: Linda Higginson, @hobartrivuletplatypus

Relief for platypuses

Heavy rain badly needed for state's monotremes

Bridget Clarke

While perhaps not the best weather for tourists, the weekend's bucketing rain has delivered some much-needed relief to the state's platypus population.

Tasmania's eminent platypus whisperer Pete Walsh said the heavy rainfall was exactly what was needed given this year's dry conditions – especially as we approach the end of winter.

"Lack of water and high temperatures are the platypus' kryptonite," Mr Walsh said.

"Rain replenishes and renews the waterway so it really

sets the platypuses up for summer."

By midday Sunday, the water was rushing down the Hobart Rivulet, with Mr Walsh warning that the swift change in conditions could result in some unexpected platypus sightings.

"During the storms, some platypuses go into a burrow and just sit it out for a day or two, while others – particularly the older ones – work the waterway to find the highest levels," he said. "They know water far better than humans ... but you could see one zooming around your backyard to look for a way past."

Mr Walsh warned against interfering with a platypus outside of its natural habitat unless "100 per cent certain they're in immediate danger".

It follows a case in 2023 where a woman was hospitalised after being struck on her hand by a platypus' venomous spurs after attempting to rescue it from the side of a road in Kingston.

"Platypuses are pretty pragmatic and quite highly adapted, but they are wild animals at the end of the day," he said.

Over in Gunns Plains in the state's north, footage posted to Wings Wildlife Park social media pages showed water

creeping closer to the road and the camping ground flats flooded.

Despite this, operators confirmed all animals were safe – with the rain a boon for the local ducks.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Matthew Thomas said while the weekend drenching helped to ease a "very dry situation", Tasmania was still sitting below expected average rainfall levels.

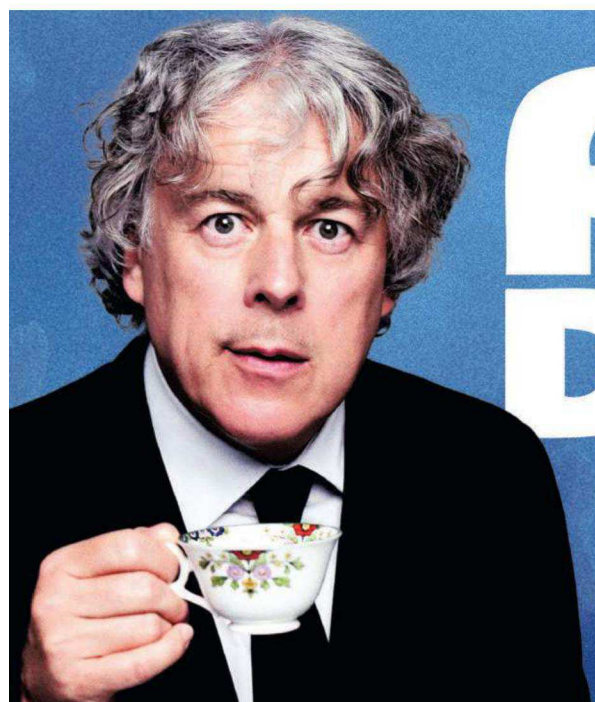
The Hobart-based meteorologist said similar bursts of rain were expected to continue over the coming months on the East Coast, which could pose implications for fire sea-

son. "The East Coast does have an increased chance of above average rainfall through spring, but due to events like the one we've seen," he said.

"Short, sharp, intense falls tend to lead to more run-off which has implications for retention of moisture in the soil. Going into the warmer months that means the ground could dry out very quickly."

Rain is expected to continue in the North West and over the far South Coast this week with largely dry conditions elsewhere.

Parts of the state, including the Macquarie and Coal Rivers, remain on flood alert.



ALAN DAVIES

THINK AHEAD

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1 December **HOBART**

Wrest Point Entertainment Centre

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'One of the best stand-up comics out there' THE GUARDIAN