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The Advocate

Jiri Lev has sparked discussion for his bold reimagining of what an urban renewal project could be. Picture by Katri Strooband.

‘GLASS BOXES’ OR HERITAGE?

Architect’s rival idea to city’s ‘sterile’ vision sparks debate

Freddie Moffat
IS TOWN character being lost to “glass and concrete boxes”?
An architect’s answer is, perhaps unsurprisingly, yes.
Jiri Lev has sparked discussion with his alternative ideas for Devonport City Council’s Formby Road renewal plan.
His concept swaps out the “sterile cookie-cutter” design

from the early visualisations the council put forward in February for one that preserves the “authentic maritime and industrial character” of the city.
He said his vision is not an actual proposal for a new design, but he wanted to “arm people with an idea” and enable residents to “demand more of their public architecture”.
“There’s always a good

lot to be said about the new developments, particularly civic structures that are functional and the community needs them,” he said.
“But, particularly in small towns, there is an attitude building at cost of anything and just innovating for the sake of it, but it really all just ends up looking the same.
“If you look at the paraple Convention Centre, or the hotel across the road,

that could be in Melbourne, it could be in Newcastle, it doesn’t say anything about a town.”
Mr Lev said he drew upon older buildings in Devonport, such as schools and warehouses, which used local brick which have a specific unique colour.
He said that colour carries a sense of place which keeps a local scene unique.

The concept released by the council in February depicts two parcels of land planned for redevelopment on Formby Road.
The early concept art for one of the buildings depicts a multistory office building wrapped in glass and plastic panelling.
“Some people commented on my visualisations saying ‘this is not going to fit with the new developments

down the street’, and that’s intentional, if you made a mistake you’re not going to continue it just to hide it,” Mr Lev said.
Mr Lev said the glass-and-plastic designs often come from a low-effort design process and a belief they are cheaper to produce.
He thinks designs should have an “evidence-based” approach.
|| Continued Page 3



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Mum's fight for affordable fertility care

Lauren Richardson

TASMANIAN women are having to travel interstate for healthcare they can't access affordably at home, saving thousands even with travel costs.

Hayley Atkins has had one daughter through IVF, and is pregnant with her second IVF baby.

She said the first time, she and her partner went through providers at home, and spent about \$15,000 to go through one round (which was successful), often travelling to Hobart for appointments and procedures.

For her second child, Ms Atkins had become aware of bulk-billing options outside of Tasmania.

She travelled to Adora Fertility's Melbourne clinic and underwent six rounds of IVF before she successfully conceived her second daughter.

Even with travel and accommodation costs, Ms Atkins said she spent less than \$3500 per round inclusive of associated costs such as day surgery and anaesthesia, compared to \$15,000 in Tasmania.

Tas IVF's website estimates costs between \$3500 and \$4300 per cycle, depending on rebates, before hospital, diagnostic testing not covered by Medicare, anaesthesia or procedure costs (such as intrauterine insemination).

She said if she'd had the same complications which led to so many rounds the second time, with Tas IVF, she and her partner could have faced bills closer to \$100,000.

"It's so unfair for Tasmanian women to



Hayley Atkins has undergone IVF, once in Tasmania and then in Melbourne. Picture by Paul Scambler

think they have to be out of pocket [thousands] to have a baby, and they can probably go to Melbourne and pay \$5000.

"If you have access to go to Hobart anyway, it's almost quicker," Ms Atkins said.

She said almost all of her procedures in Tasmania required travelling south.

"I don't understand why women here can't have access to the same level of care and costs," Ms Atkins said.

Adora Fertility CEO Vanessa Ferguson said the fertility service has been operating since 2014 and their prices have been relatively stable since then, bulk-billing the majority of IVF-related care.

"We believe everybody, regardless of financial status, should be able to access high quality fertility care that is affordable."

Adora provides teleconsults to get the process started, and manages certain testing in the patient's home state.

"The majority of their cycle monitoring, which is blood tests and scans, are done close to home or work, and they only need to travel to one of our clinics for procedures, which is a day surgery procedure," she said.

Over the past year, Ms Ferguson said they had seen a 50 per cent increase in patients travelling from Tasmania to Victoria to access treatment.

Nationally, people travelling more than 100 kilometres for treatment has increased by 34 per cent.

"People are becoming more aware of low cost options that still provide a tailored treatment plan," she said.

The Tasmanian Government announced in mid-May IVF and Fertility Support Initiative guidelines, granting rebates of up to \$2000 for eligible treatments.

Health Minister Bridget Archer said while federal support was available, the state government was committed to further reducing cost barriers for Tasmanians wanting to access fertility treatments.

It is intended to contribute to costs above Medicare or private health insurance rebates for services in Tasmania.

"Growing a family is a unique and personal journey, and for some Tasmanians, fertility treatment plays an important part in that," she said.

She said the program would help more Tasmanians experience the joy of parenthood and grow their families.

Ms Atkins said the rebates didn't adequately close the gap for Tasmanian women compared to interstate counterparts, and Tasmanian women needed to know they have interstate options with great care, but without the financial burden.

"Jeremy Rockliff's \$2000 is a laughable amount," she said.

She said she'd keep speaking out about the inequity until Tasmanian women didn't have to make fertility decisions based on their financial situation.

Architect presents alternative

From front page

"Show the design to a test group, don't give them a written explanation, ask them what the design reminds them of and does it look like Devonport," he said.

"It should be somewhere where you can easily imagine a bunch of tourists coming to Devonport, having a coffee there and taking a photo. I really doubt people are taking pictures in front of the paranple, that's pretty self-evident."

Devonport City Council chief executive Matthew Atkins said the council's living city masterplan, which guides new developments, is "founded on building upon the unique character and strength of Devonport's CBD".

"Maintaining and enhancing Devonport's identity remains an important

consideration in planning for the [Formby Road] site, and council is confident the eventual development outcome will make a positive contribution to the city's public realm," he said.

Pursuit almost became tragedy

A speeding driver fleeing police tore around a blind corner near Penguin, narrowly missing a farmer and a herd of cows in 2024.

The police pursuit was one of 120 crimes committed by Tyler Desmond Bakes who embarked on a spree of offending over 18 months.

Bakes, 30, was sentenced in the Magistrates Court in Burnie on Tuesday.

He was jailed for two years, after pleading guilty to a litany of crimes committed between March 2024 and December 2025

while he was in the grip of an ice addiction.

The court was told the crime spree started with the burglary of a laundromat and the theft of copper wire.

Weeks later he broke into a shed and stole \$6700 worth of tools. He then fled from police in Amy Street, West Ulverstone and ended up speeding along a number of country roads behind Penguin.

On Nine Mile Road, he saw police spikes, did a U-turn then took a blind corner at speed, narrowly missing a farmer herding cows. The spikes were ultimately successful and Bakes was arrested after he fled.

A few weeks later he was involved in a head-on crash and he again ran away.

In June 2024 he evaded police on South Road at Ulverstone in an unregistered car with false plates. Inside the car was \$31,000 worth of ice and \$3200 in cash.

In June last year he directed a laser beam at police as they conducted a curfew check.

Bakes was charged with 96 breaches of his bail conditions. He has since spent six months in custody, much of it in solitary confinement due to lockdown conditions.

Bakes was sentenced to a total of two years in jail and he will not be able to get behind the wheel of a vehicle for six years.

He will be eligible for parole after serving one year of his sentence which was backdated to November when he was taken into custody.

- Helen Kempton

Oz Lotto draw 1685

Winning numbers: 40, 31, 30, 4, 10, 43, 9. Supps: 15, 44, 16. Div 1: Jackpotted; Div 2: \$78,919.35; Div 3: \$4,055.15; Div 4: \$438.80; Div 5: \$54.70; Div 6: \$27.05; Div 7: \$16.70.

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