

Brian White Scholarship – 2021

QLD: Brisbane's three-day COVID lockdown ends

The Greater Brisbane lockdown has ended after only one new case of community transmission was recorded in Queensland.

The single case is linked to an existing cluster and has been in quarantine during their infectious period.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the key factors in relaxing the stay-at-home restrictions before Easter were high testing rates and no unlinked cases in the community.

"If you have plans, the lockdown is lifted from 12 noon today," she said on Thursday.

"Easter is good to go."

Several restrictions remain in place for the whole state during the next 14 days.

Queenslanders must wear a mask when indoors except when eating and drinking and must be seated in restaurants and pubs.

Gatherings in homes are capped at 30 people and visits to hospitals, aged care and disability facilities and prisons are not allowed apart from end-of-life situations.

NSW: Premier undaunted by NSW 'current scare'

Premier Gladys Berejiklian says NSW is well equipped to handle its COVID-19 "scare" after no new locally-acquired cases were recorded around Byron Bay.

NSW recorded one new local case in the 24 hours to 8pm on Wednesday - a man in his 20s who had already been flagged.

The man tested positive after sitting near a hens' party, which was attended by two infectious women from Queensland, at a Byron Bay pub last weekend.

His diagnosis sparked fears the virus was spreading in the community and led to the cancellation of the northern beach town's popular Bluesfest music festival this long weekend and the reintroduction of restrictions in four northern NSW councils.

Bluesfest was due to begin on Thursday with 16,000 revellers expected from all over the country for the five-day festival.

QLD: Olympian guilty of bungled cocaine plot

An Olympic silver medallist and his younger brother have been found guilty of plotting to smuggle \$200 million of cocaine into Australia.

World champion kayaker Nathan Jon Baggaley, 45, and 39-year-old Dru Anthony Baggaley were accused of trying to import 650kg of cocaine into Australia.

After about eight hours of deliberating a Brisbane Supreme Court jury found both men guilty on Thursday.

Nathan Baggaley's career was tarnished with drug scandals like testing positive for banned steroids in 2005 and then being jailed, with brother Dru, 10 years later for his role in a drug manufacturing syndicate.

Dru Baggaley and another man Anthony Draper - who earlier pleaded guilty to his involvement - got the cocaine from a foreign boat hundreds of kilometres off the NSW coast in 2018.

The Baggaley brothers will be sentenced on a date yet to be decided.

NSW: NZer Brierley admits having abuse photos

Sir Ron Brierley will be added to NSW's child protection register and will reportedly lose his knighthood after the New Zealand investor and corporate raider admitted child abuse crimes.

The 83-year-old multi-millionaire on Thursday pleaded guilty to three counts of possessing child abuse material after being caught with material in Sydney International Airport in December 2019.

One offence related to photographs of girls, aged as young as two years, in sexually suggestive poses while another concerned a data storage device found at his home that contained 1615 images of child abuse material.

The exact number of images found on Brierley's devices is still disputed, Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court was told.

Agreed facts are yet to be filed.

A police prosecutor dropped 14 other child abuse material charges after Brierley's pleas were entered.

SA: SA double-killer sentenced over shootings

A "monster" who shot his son and his son's girlfriend at close range, pausing to reload between the killings as the young woman frantically called for help, has been jailed for at least 34 years.

Pawel Klosowski faced the South Australian Supreme Court on Thursday where Justice Anne Bampton said the "anguish and heart-wrenching pain" he had caused for the families involved was profound.

Fuelled by alcohol and enraged over an argument the 46-year-old's conduct became "irrational, reactive and ultimately violent", the judge said.

Klosowski had earlier pleaded guilty to the murders of his son Lukasz Klosowski and Chelsea Ireland, both aged 19, at his rural southeast property in August last year.

In recent submissions, the former truck driver admitted he could not explain his actions but thought about what he had done every day.

VIC: Amorosi suing her mum over money dispute

MELBOURNE, April 1 AAP - Australian singer Vanessa Amorosi has launched legal action over income she alleges was wrongfully withheld by her mother.

Joyleen Robinson is accused of engaging in "unconscionable conduct" regarding the daughter's finances over the past two decades.

In a lawsuit filed in Victoria's Supreme Court, the ARIA-winner behind the 2000 hit album *The Power* is seeking to wrest control of the family trust.

Amorosi began singing and songwriting at the age of 12.

The lawsuit says her mother arranged around 1999 for the income to go through a company to protect Amorosi from creditors.

Ms Robinson subsequently said she'd set up additional companies and trusts on her daughter's behalf, according to court documents.

Amorosi, now aged 39, alleges she did not receive money owed to her, while her mother collected management fees or made payments to others.

In the 2000/01 financial year, the lawsuit claims Amorosi was assigned \$862,512 through companies controlled by her mother.

Of that, \$390,000 was used for the purchase by mother and daughter of a Narre Warren home.

Court documents say Amorosi never received the other \$472,512 to which she was entitled.

As well as an order appointing her trustee of the family trust, Amorosi is seeking the court-ordered sale of the Narre Warren property, where Ms Robinson and her husband remain.

NT: Soldiers charged with child sex in court

Two serving Australian Defence Force members have faced court accused of a string of sex and drug offences involving children.

The men allegedly supplied ecstasy and had non-consensual sex with two girls aged 14 and 15 in Darwin in September.

An Australian Army private, aged 20, was denied bail in the Northern Territory Local Court on Thursday.

A second soldier, 19, was granted bail with strict conditions.

He is charged with 13 offences, including supplying drugs alcohol to minors, possessing unlicensed firearms and having sex with children.

The soldiers cannot be named for legal reasons.

The teen will be released into his parents' custody to return to his family home in Brisbane once a mortgage over their home is provided to the court as security.

Vic: Rare Aussie coin shown after US auction

An extremely rare and valuable Australian coin featuring a "sour" looking Queen Victoria will go on show for the public in Melbourne these Easter holidays.

The Five Pound Coin, also known as a quintuple sovereign, fetched \$US660,000 (\$AU867,600) at an auction in the Texas city of Dallas on March 27.

It was the second-highest price paid for an Australian coin in history behind the 1930 Proof Australian Penny, which sold for \$1.15 million in 2019.

The coin was one of only three struck by the Sydney Mint in 1887 to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

Museums Victoria lays claim to the only one believed not to be in private hands after it was transferred to them by the Royal Mint's Melbourne branch on January 11, 1978.

Sport

AFL: AFL coaches always under pressure: Cameron

GWS coach Leon Cameron is content to cop the brunt of scrutiny after his AFL side's shocking defeat to Fremantle, insisting it will prove a blip.

The Giants, who host undefeated Melbourne at Manuka Oval on Sunday night, are 0-2 for the first time since 2013.

The expansion club's season-opening loss to St Kilda had some positive signs, but a 31-point loss to Fremantle prompted scathing criticism and fresh questions about Cameron's job security.

"If you read into it too much, clearly it's going to affect you," Cameron told reporters.

"A lot of that noise I don't really look into.

"You've got to be really confident in what you do, I'm really confident we're heading on the right track.

"You're always going to be under pressure. It doesn't matter who you are.

RL: NRL probes potential breach at Tszyu fight

The NRL has asked Wests Tigers to explain why James Roberts was at the Tim Tszyu-Dennis Hogan fight on Wednesday night, as they league probes a possible biosecurity breach.

On Wednesday all clubs were sent an email by the NRL warning players that they should not attend the fight in Newcastle.

An exemption was granted for South Sydney duo Latrell Mitchell and Cody Walker to attend as part of Tszyu's entourage under the condition they wore masks and adhered to the COVID plan of the boxer's team.

However, star centre Roberts was not granted the same exemption prior to attending the fight and on Thursday the NRL asked for a please explain.

At the moment all players subject to level two restrictions under the NRL's biosecurity plan meaning they must wear masks while indoors and avoid public transport.

CRICK: Rain wash-out in women's trans-Tasman T20

Rain has forced play to be abandoned in Australia's Twenty20 women's cricket international series decider against New Zealand at Auckland on Thursday.

The game was called off with Australia stranded on 1-14 off just 2.5 overs.

The result ensures world champions Australia have never won a T20 series in New Zealand.

However, the 1-1 series ensures Australia's T20 streak remains intact - they haven't lost a T20 series since late 2017, a run that has included two World Cup triumphs.

Thursday's match was initially reduced to 13 overs a side after the toss was delayed by 90 minutes due to showers.

But after the White Ferns won the toss, the game was called off when the heavens opened again at Eden Park with Alyssa Healy not out eight and captain Meg Lanning yet to score.

