



- **Employment fell by 3.6% annually**
- **Unemployment rate increased to 5.4%**
- **Participation rate fell to 60.2%**

Note: All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

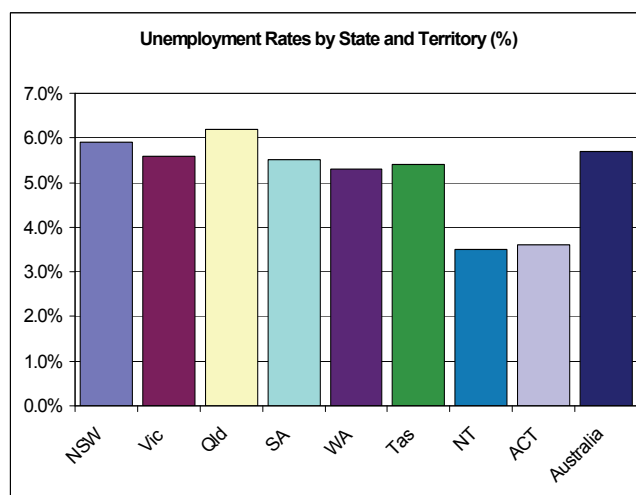
Employment

Total employment in Tasmania fell for the 13th consecutive month in November, and was 3.0 per cent lower than it was in November last year. This equates to a net loss of approximately 7,200 jobs over the last 12 months. Full-time employment fell by 3.6 per cent over the year, compared to a 1.7 per cent drop in part-time employment. Total male employment fell by around 9,300 or 7.0 per cent over the year, while total female employment remained largely unchanged over the year, with a minor drop of 0.09 per cent. Male full-time employment fell by 6.8 per cent, while part-time employment fell by 8.3 per cent. Female full-time employment has fallen by 2.2 per cent since last November, while female part-time employment increased by 3.8 per cent over the same period.

Unemployment

The total number of unemployed Tasmanians recorded in November was estimated at 13,200, an increase of 25.7 per cent over the year. All of the increases in unemployment have been among males, with female unemployment virtually unchanged over the year. The female

unemployment rate was estimated at 4.8 per cent, compared to 5.0 per cent for males. The total unemployment rate for Tasmania was 5.4 per cent in November compared to 4.2 per cent last November. The current national unemployment rate is 5.7 per cent; the following graph shows the unemployment rates for other States and Territories



Labour Force & Participation Rates

The number of people in the Tasmanian labour force in November was 2.3 per cent lower than the number recorded in November last year. The female labour force actually increased by 0.6 per cent over the year, but the size of the male labour force declined by 4.7 per cent. Tasmania's participation rate was 60.2 per cent in November, down from 62.3 per cent in the same month last year. It is also significantly below the current national participation rate, which stands at 65.2 per cent.

Feature Article REGIONAL PROFILES PART ONE – NORTHERN TASMANIA

Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

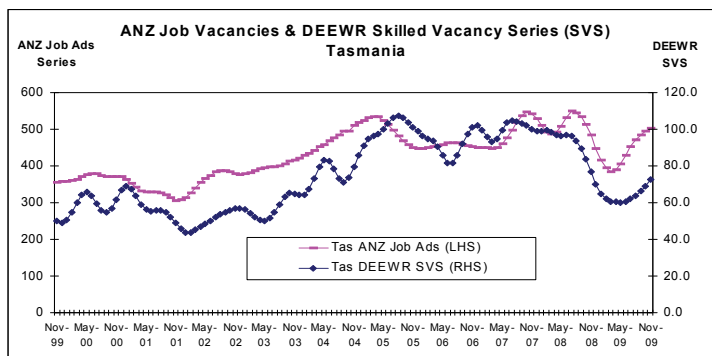
	Nov-2008	Oct-2009	Nov-2009
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	132.1	123.1	122.8
Female	108.2	109.3	109.0
Full-time	165.3	156.7	156.7
Part-time	75.0	75.7	75.1
Persons	240.3	232.4	231.7
Unemployment			
Male	4.9	7.4	7.7
Female	5.6	5.4	5.5
Persons	10.5	12.8	13.2
Labour Force			
Male	137.0	130.5	130.5
Female	113.8	114.7	114.4
Persons	250.8	245.2	245.0
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	3.6	5.7	5.9
Female	5.0	4.7	4.8
Persons	4.2	5.2	5.4
Full-time Teenage*	21.7	20.3	22.2
Participation Rate %			
Male	69.7	65.7	65.6
Female	55.2	55.1	54.9
Persons	62.3	60.3	60.2
*unadjusted data			

Job Vacancies

The ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series (trend) in Tasmania increased in November for the ninth consecutive month, and was 3.9% above what it was in November 2008. Nationally, the series increased by 2.3% over the month, but was 24.2% below what it was in November 2008.

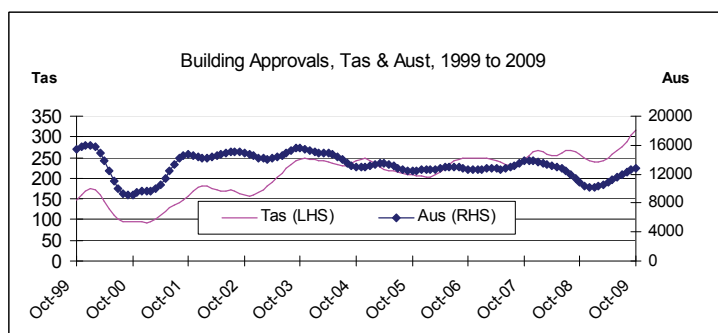
DEEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index (trend) rose in the month of November by 4.3% and was only 5.2% lower than it was in November last year. Nationally, the series

increased by 2.4% over the month but was 35.1% lower than it was in November 2008.



Other Indicators

Building approvals in Tasmania increased in October by 4.0% over the previous month. They also increased over the year and were 22.1% higher than for the same time in October 2008. Nationally, building approvals increased by 2.3% over the month, and increased by 18.5% over the year.



Retail quarterly turnover (chain volume measure) increased by 1.1% in Tasmania in the September 2009 quarter, and by 2.9% over the year. This compares to a national quarterly increase of 1.4% for the September 2009 quarter and an annual increase of 3.3%.

Average Weekly (Total) Earnings for adults working full-time in Tasmania were \$1,068.90 for the quarter ending August 2009. This was 14.4% less than the national average of \$1,248.80 for the same period.

Newstart Recipients & Youth

Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances)				
	<12 months	>12 months	Total	% > 12 months
Oct-2008	4,147	5,795	9,942	58.3%
Oct-2009	5,997	6,131	12,128	50.6%
Number difference	1,850	336	2,186	
% difference	44.6%	5.8%	22.0%	

REGIONAL PROFILES PART ONE – NORTHERN TASMANIA

The following article is the first of three that will be focussing on the labour market in each of the three Tasmanian regions. The data discussed will be primarily from the ABS monthly labour force survey, and rolling three month averages will be used in an attempt to reduce the volatility of the data. In general, the approach will be to compare each region to the State average, and the last five years will be the focus. Each report will focus on the five years to October 2009, to allow direct comparisons of regions.

Employment

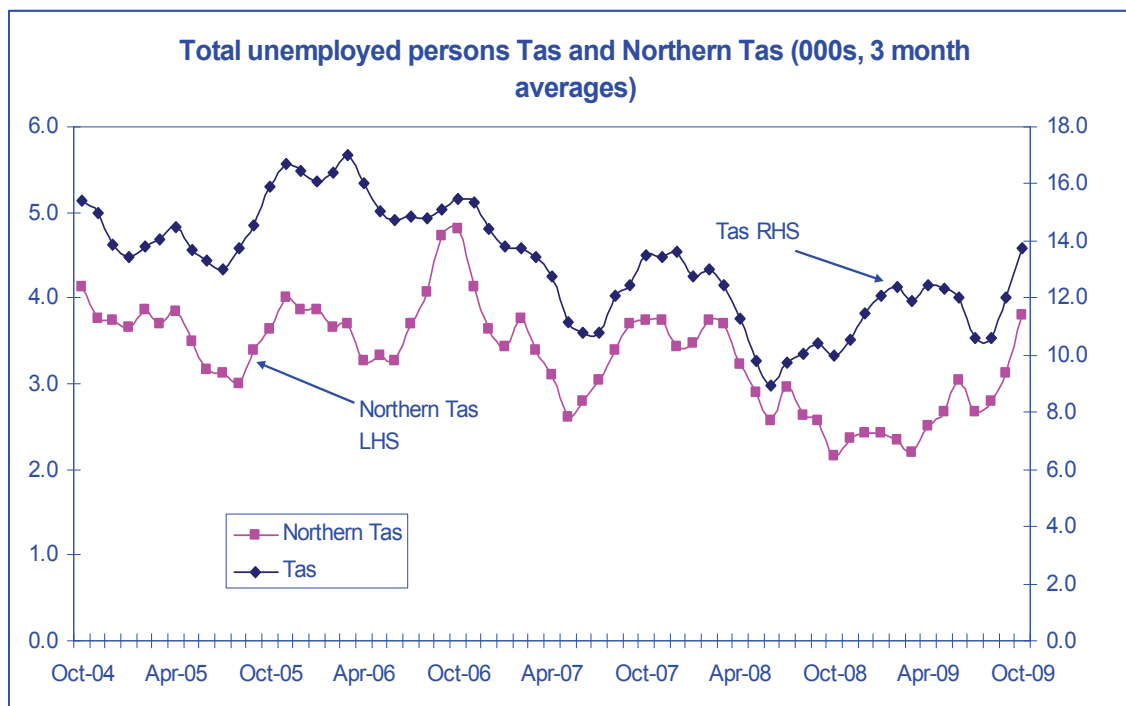
Total employment in the northern Tasmanian region grew by 4,800 or 7.7 per cent between October 2004 and October 2009. This compares with growth of 8.9 per cent for the whole State during the same period. Total female employment accounted for 56.3 per cent of all employment growth in the north over the last five years. For the whole of Tasmania, female employment accounted for 42.9 per cent of total growth in the last five years, which perhaps suggests a different pattern of industry growth in the north compared to the rest of the State. Another difference between employment growth in the north compared to the rest of the State is in the balance between full-time and part-time work. In the north, full-time work increased by 15.2 per cent over the last five years, while part-time employment declined by 6.3 per cent. For the whole of Tasmania, full-time employment increased by a much lower 6.6 per cent, while part-time employment increased by 14.1 per cent. In October 2004, the northern region accounted for 29.3 per cent of the State's employed people, and by October 2009, this had fallen slightly to 29.0 per cent.

The following table shows the components of employment growth in northern Tasmania compared to growth for the whole State.

	Northern Tasmania			Tasmania		
	F/time	P/time	Total	F/time	P/time	Total
Males	68.8%	-25.0%	43.8%	16.7%	15.8%	32.5%
Females	59.7%	-3.5%	56.3%	33.9%	33.6%	67.5%
Persons	128.5%	-28.5%	100.0%	50.6%	49.4%	100.0%

Unemployment

The following chart shows the movement in the numbers of unemployed people in northern Tasmania compared to the State as a whole. Please note the two statistical series shown in the graph are on two different scales, to allow close comparison. LHS means left hand scale and RHS means right hand scale.



Total unemployment in the north fell by 8.1 per cent over the five years to October 2009, compared to a fall of 11.0 per cent for the whole State. Male unemployment was fairly similar in the north compared to the rest of the State, with falls of 15.8 per cent and 13.7 per cent respectively. However female unemployment increased by 4.2 per cent in the north, but fell by 7.0 per cent for the whole State. As the above graph shows there have been significant rises in unemployment over the last 12 months. In the north total unemployment rose from 2,200 to 3,800 or 75.4 per cent, while for the whole of Tasmania, unemployment rose from 10,000 to 13,700 or 37.3 per cent between October 2008 and October 2009. In October 2004, 26.8 per cent of the State's unemployed lived in the north of the State, but by October 2009, this share had increased to 27.7 per cent of the total. The unemployment rate in northern Tasmania fell from 5.7 per cent in October 2004 to 5.4 per cent in October 2009. The Tasmanian unemployment rate fell from 6.8 per cent to 5.6 per cent over the same period.

Labour Force and participation rates

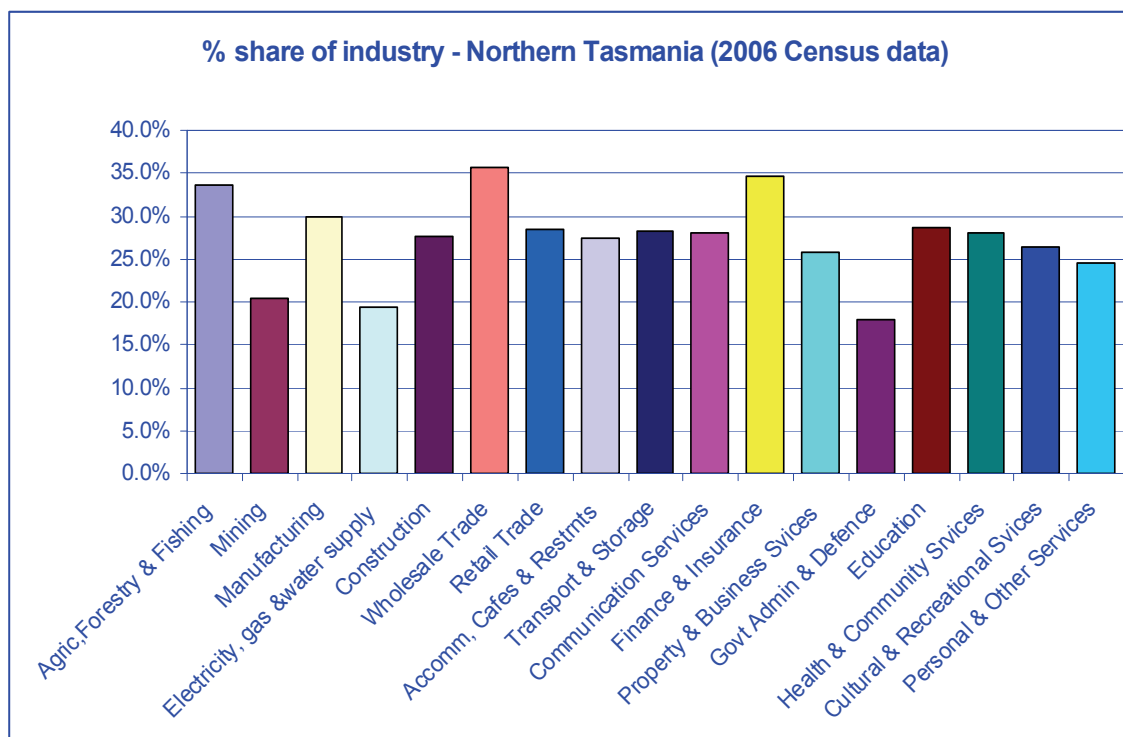
The size of the northern labour force (that is, the number of people in work plus those looking for work) grew by 6.7 per cent over the last five years. This compares to growth of 7.6 per cent for the whole State over the same period. The female labour forces in both the northern region and the State easily outstripped those for males. In the north the female labour force grew by 9.2 per cent, compared to 4.7 per cent for males. For the whole of Tasmania, the female workforce grew by 12.1 per cent compared to 3.9 per cent for males. In October 2004, 29.1 per cent of Tasmania's workforce lived in the north of the State and by 2009, this had fallen slightly to 28.9 per cent.

Labour force participation rates in the northern region increased from 61.0 per cent to 61.8 per cent over the last five years, while for the whole State they in-

creased from 59.0 per cent to 60.4 per cent. Male participation rates have actually fallen over the last five years in both the north and for the whole State. These falls have been off-set by rises in the female participation rate in both cases as well, resulting in rises in the overall rate.

Industry share

The following graph shows what percentage share of each of Tasmania's industries the northern region has. It is perhaps useful to bear in mind that in October 2009, 28.9 per cent of the State's work force lived in the north. The graph shows that in general most industries reflect that, in that most industries have between about 25 and 30 per cent of the State's work force.



Some minor exceptions are in mining, electricity, gas and water, and government administration and defence; these industries are represented to a lesser extent in the north. Agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale trade and finance and insurance appear to be over-represented in the north, compared to the State average. *(N.B. More recent data on industry has not been used in this report as the ABS has updated its industry classification system. Data from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification System (ANZSIC) 1993 was discontinued in 2007. Data since then is under the new ANZSIC 2006 system so there is a break in the old series, and only two years worth of data under the new system).*

Summary

- Employment in the north has grown at a slightly lower rate than for the State as a whole over the last five years;
- Unemployment has not fallen as much in the north as it has for the whole of Tasmania between October 2004 and October 2009;

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- Participation rates have typically been higher in the north than the State average, but the gap has narrowed in recent years.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN NOVEMBER 2009

- Nov 3rd Tasmania's housing sector is expecting stable growth for the year ahead. House prices went up by 1.8 per cent in the September quarter, the second successive quarter of growth. The Housing Industry Association says even though a recovery is underway, Tasmania urgently needs a new, streamlined planning system and better serviced land for housing construction. The HIA's Stuart Clues says the industry is hoping the overall stable pattern of the past year will continue in 2010. "We've had steady growth now since 2003," he said. "We've done year-in year-out better numbers both in renovations and new homes and we haven't seen that crash when everything with the global financial crisis kicked in a couple of years ago" Mr Clues said. *(ABC Business News)*
- Nov 4th A \$10 million accommodation development planned for Queen Street at Burnie in the State's north west, will not go ahead after previously being approved by the Burnie City Council. The Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal rejected the plan and developer spokesman Daryn Weller of Weller's Inn said that based on legal advice they would not appeal the decision. Mr Weller said the entire process had cost just under \$300,000. *(The Advocate)*
- Nov 4th According to the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania's Quarterly Property Report Devonport in the State's north west and Kingston and Sandy Bay in the State's south had the highest turnover of house sales for the September quarter. House sales picked up strongly in Tasmanian north-west centres during the quarter, but declined in Launceston and Hobart. *(The Advocate)*
- Nov 5th The Tasmanian State Government has rushed through legislation to give timber company Gunns an extra two years before it has to start work on its \$2 billion pulp mill. Resources Minister David Llewellyn said yesterday the Pulp Mill Clarification Bill introduced into Parliament on Tuesday was approved by Cabinet only last Monday and had been rushed through normal government processes. State Parliament will today debate whether to allow Gunns until August 2011 to start work on its contentious Tamar Valley pulp mill in the States north, after the Solicitor-General advised that the mill's operating permit might have expired at the end of August. *(The Mercury)*
- Nov 6th Huonville High School south of Hobart will be the home of a new \$6.4 million trade training centre funded by the Federal Government. Franklin MHR Julie Collins yesterday said the centre would create qualified workers in automotive, electrical, forestry, hospitality, horticulture and aquaculture industries. The money was made available under round two of the Federal Government's Trade Training Centres in Schools program, which will fund three such centres in Tasmania worth a total of \$15.8 million. The other centres will be in the North-West and on the East Coast. Other federally funded trade training centres are already being built at Bridgewater in the south, Dorset in the north east and George Town in the north of the State. *(The Mercury)*
- Nov 10th Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said a national Harley-Davidson rally held recently in the State's north had boosted the Launceston economy by an estimated \$2 million. Around 2000 people attended the National Harley Owners Group rally from across Australia, the US and New Zealand. *(The Examiner)*
- Nov 10th Devonport's \$50 million Homemaker Centre in the State's north west has been granted planning approval by the Devonport City Council but still has a legal hitch to overcome.

A court action lodged by Australian Weaving Mills proposes that the project should never have been approved and would be tested in court. (*The Advocate*)

- Nov 13th Queenstown on the State's west coast is to gain a one-stop centre for many child, learning and government services with the development of a \$4 million "Queenstown Hub". The hub in Driffield Street will include a Child and Family Centre, a Learning and Information Centre (LINC), Service Tasmania and more. The local library, West Coast Council offices and a play area will also feature at the site, along with a range of other local, state and federal government services. Premier David Bartlett said construction was expected to start by mid-2010 and should be finished late next year. (*The Advocate*)
- Nov 13th Car parts maker ACL located at Launceston in the State's north made a small profit in October. Despite a strong Australian dollar, the company had continued to export about 60 per cent of its production, Grant-Thornton receiver manager Greg Keith said yesterday. ACL collapsed in August this year just months after receiving a \$5 million Federal Government grant. Last month nearly half of ACL's 300 staff ceased work with the company, which had been losing \$500,000 to \$1 million a month. Before the collapse staff had been working four-day weeks. "Now remaining staff are working five days a week with some doing overtime, reducing costs so that they were commensurate with sales volume had stemmed the company's losses" Mr Keith said. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 15th Tasmania's construction industry has welcomed the opening of tenders for the \$100 million redevelopment of the Launceston General Hospital in the States north. The Federal and State-funded project has a two year deadline and will account for 15 per cent of Tasmania's commercial building revenue during the next year, according to the Chairman of the Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Council, John Pitt. Annually the construction industry is worth \$2.2 billion to Tasmania, with a 50-50 mix of civil construction and building projects. Tenders were due to close on 9th December 2009. (*The Sunday Examiner*).
- Nov 17th The Launceston City Council in the State's north yesterday approved a \$1.5 million regional tennis centre. The centre, which will include 11 outdoor courts and car parking, will be next to the Launceston Indoor Sports Association at the Elphin Precinct. It will be jointly funded by the Council, State and Federal Governments and Tennis Australia. Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said the centre would increase Launceston's ability to attract new tournaments as well as broaden local health and fitness options. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 17th The Burnie Tennis Club in the State's north west will receive a \$1 million upgrade. The club has hosted the successful men's McDonald's Burnie International Series since 2002 and last year secured a five-year deal to host the women's series. The project secured \$400,000 in State Government funding and \$86,000 through the Commonwealth Community Infrastructure Program. The upgrade will include refurbishment of the clubhouse; upgrading centre court; improving lighting to international standard and resurfacing of the 16 courts that are already in use. (*The Advocate*)
- Nov 17th The Tasmanian Minister for Tourism and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne has said that the latest National Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), published by the ABS shows that in the 2007-08 financial year tourism in Tasmania directly and indirectly employed around 25,600 people, or about 11.2% of the State's total workforce. It also showed that the total tourism contribution to Gross State Product during this period was about \$1.84 billion, or around 8.7% of Tasmania's Gross State Product. This is 2.4% higher than the national figure. "The State Government has boosted tourism funding by an extra \$32 million since 2006 and is determined to ensure tourism remains a vital component of our State's economy" Ms O'Byrne said. (www.media.tas.gov.au)
- Nov 17th The Tasmanian Minister for Economic Development, Michael Aird today congratulated newsprint and magazine paper producer Norske Skog and logistics management company BIS In-

dustrial Logistics on the successful completion of their \$50 million Softwood Conversion Project and Integrated Woodchip Plant at the Boyer Newsprint Mill near New Norfolk in southern Tasmania. The Softwood Conversion Project converts the Boyer site away from using eucalypt based cold caustic soda processing lines to a new plantation softwood based thermo-mechanical pulp plant. "The mill's annual contribution to Tasmania's Gross State Product has been estimated at approximately \$390 million, and the employment creates more than 900 jobs, this includes 340 direct employees" Mr Aird said. (www.media.tas.gov.au)

- Nov 17th In a related article the Tasmanian Greens also congratulated Norske Skog for their major re-investment in the Boyer Newsprint Mill which ensures that its newsprint will now be produced using plantation pine and recycled fibre instead of native forests. Greens Member for Lyons, Tim Morris MP said that "The Greens welcome the softwood conversion of the old Cold Caustic Soda pulp mill to Thermo Mechanical at Boyer which improves the mills' competitive position, reduces effluent volume by 25% per tonne of paper, reduces CO2 emissions and also means that there will no longer be any native forest used in newspaper manufacture in Tasmania". (www.mps.tas.greens.org.au)
- Nov 19th The AFL has announced a \$200,000 contribution towards a \$7 million Northern Stand redevelopment of the Aurora Stadium at Launceston in the State's north. The redevelopment will see increased seating capacity from 11,000 to 13,500 and an additional 16 corporate boxes, Launceston Mayor Albert Van Zetten said. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 19th Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett has confirmed he will take control of the embattled Australian Technical College (ATC) from next year. Mr Bartlett yesterday pledged \$900,000 to ensure the Launceston and Burnie campuses of the ATC in the north and north west of Tasmania respectively will remain open. The colleges, set up by the previous Liberal government, were due to close at the end of the year. Mr Bartlett told State Parliament that the colleges would be maintained next year with their current curriculum and would remain a registered training organisation. He said procedures were under way to ensure staff from the technical colleges could be reemployed next year. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 21st Vegetable processor McCain's will pull out of Tasmania and process its vegetables in New Zealand a decision that is expected to devastate the economy of Smithton in the state's north west and cost the state \$25 million a year. McCain announced yesterday that its Smithton vegetable processing plant would close next year. The decision will cost 115 permanent and 70-odd casual jobs. It also will have major implications for 100 vegetable growers who supply McCain with about \$20 million worth of beans, peas, carrots, cauliflowers and broccoli each year. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 21st Woodchipper Gunns Ltd has agreed to take over as the responsible entity for some of the Great Southern forestry schemes. Gunns said yesterday it had signed a conditional agreement to become the responsible entity of the 1998-2006 forestry managed investment schemes (Pulpwood Schemes). Gunns is also investigating the 2007 Pulpwood Scheme with a view to becoming its responsible entity and has "substantially agreed" to buy some of the Great Southern assets for \$8.7 million. Gunns chief executive Greg L'Estrange said the proposal for the 1998-2006 schemes was a compelling offer that would provide certainty to the Great Southern grower-investors. The proposal is subject to various conditions, including approval of resolutions by grower-investors, with meetings likely to be held on December 23, and appropriate court directions. Gunns will replace Great Southern Managers Australia Ltd, which has been placed in liquidation and also is in receivership. (*The Mercury*)
- Nov 24th The Federal government has "stopped the clock" on Tasmania's plan to build a tourist road through one of Australia's premier wilderness areas. Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett referred his plan for a 134km tourist loop through the Tarkine rainforest, in

Tasmania's north west, to the Federal Environment Department in October. Environment Minister Peter Garrett's office has been keeping a close eye on the road proposal since putting a stop to Queensland's Traveston dam, saving turtle and lungfish species. "The Department has stopped the clock on the Tarkine road-referral process so that they can obtain further information from the proponents in order to help them make a decision about assessing the referral," a spokesman for Mr Garrett said. Mr Garrett must decide if the road has an impact on any matters of national environmental significance. If it does, he will make it subject to federal assessments and approvals. Tasmania's Infrastructure Minister Graeme Sturges said the request for more information on the road proposal was just part of the process. Mr Sturges said the requested information should be forwarded to the Federal Government by mid-December. The Tasmanian State Government had hoped to start construction of the road in March, the same month as the state election. (*The Sydney Morning Herald*)

Nov 25th The Falls Music and Arts Festival held at Marion Bay south of Hobart yesterday received a funding boost of more than \$500,000. Tasmanian Deputy Premier Lara Giddings announced the State Government would commit \$287,525 with festival operator Ashlorien Management Pty Ltd matching that amount. Ms Giddings said the Government and organiser had identified important infrastructure projects. The site work includes road infrastructure, the building of token sales booths, fencing, irrigation and construction of more than 100 environmentally friendly toilets. (*The Examiner*)

Nov 25th A major new research project in Tasmania will examine what needs to be done to maximise living standards, wealth generation and business sector performance in the state by 2020. Details of the survey, to be conducted by the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) were outlined at an executive function in Hobart in the State's south at which the Tasmanian Government Treasurer, Michael Aird was the keynote speaker. The CEO of AIM - Victoria and Tasmania, Susan Heron said AIM would be seeking comment over coming weeks from management across Tasmania on the proposed content for the survey which is set to be conducted early next year and the data published in April. The survey is titled: 'Tasmania 2020 survey – a look to the future for business performance, wealth generation and living standards in Tasmania'. AIM re-established long term operations in Tasmania in July and has opened an administrative services and knowledge centre in Hobart from where it co-ordinates professional development for managers across the state and provides online information resources and a bookshop. (*media release - www.aimvic.com.au*)

Nov 26th Tasmanian Minister for Tourism and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne, announced that filming began this week on a Tasmanian episode of a new lifestyle and travel show called No Leave No Life. Ms O'Byrne said that the new series, which is hosted by Ernie Dingo OAM from Channel Seven's popular show The Great Outdoors, is about motivating viewers to take a break from their busy lives by showcasing inspirational Australian holiday destinations. "It is a message that underpins Tourism Tasmania's new consumer marketing message that world-class experiences in Tasmania are 'A world apart, not a world away'," Ms O'Byrne said. No Leave No Life is a seven week TV series, which will air on the Seven Network at 6.30pm on Saturdays. The first episode will air on Saturday 5 December. (*www.media.tas.gov.au*)

Nov 27th A walkway will be built connecting the historic Brickendon and Woolmer's Estates as part of more than \$1 million makeover for the sites located at Longford in the State's north. Both sites are on the National Heritage List and a decision about inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List is expected by June next year. Work has begun, using about \$500,000 of Federal Government money for each site, on restoration work and the walkway. (*The Examiner*)

Nov 27th The new \$21 million Wyndham Vacation Resort at Seven Mile Beach south of Hobart gives Tasmania a new tourism market, according to Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett.

The Wyndham Group owns 7000 hotels and resorts worldwide and is the world's largest vacation ownership company with 830,000 owner-members in the US, Canada and the Asia-Pacific. "Evidence shows holiday ownership resorts attract people who tend to stay longer and explore more, which means a greater flow-on to businesses and injection into the economy," Mr Bartlett said. The new resort has 61 units, a restaurant, bar, pool, outdoor spa and tennis court and employs 35 staff. (*The Mercury*)

Nov 28th The Tasmanian brand icon Hartz Mineral Water range will soon be sold again in Hartz's original bottle, complete with the old logo. Hartz was placed in the hands of a liquidator in April 2008 and sold to another Tasmanian drinks maker Juicy Isle. The new range will be available in stores state-wide in two weeks. Thirty-eight workers owed wages after the collapse of Hartz Mineral Water have now been paid. (*The Mercury*)