

Stole from dead man

HELEN KEMPTON

THE sister of a man killed at his bush block retreat in Sprent earlier this year has labelled thieves who recently stole her dead brother's property as "wretched scum."

Dean Jupp, 59, was allegedly murdered at his Chilcott Rd property on January 23

His sister Angela Rogers said thieves had now ransacked the rural block where Dean liked to find sanctuary – sometime before October 9.

Some of the many items stolen

included an orange and black three to four tonne wheeled excavator, a metal lathe, an old trailer generator/welder, two small generators and a 1000 litre plastic cube water tank.

Angela said the larger items would have needed to be transported and needed more than one person to move.

She said at least one of those people would have to be aware of the fact they were stealing from a dead man.

"I imagine it was done at night and definitely involved more than

one person. We have reported it to the police and want these scum caught and identified.

"After losing Dean as we did in January, we are shocked and saddened that this has happened. It feels like they have dug up my beautiful, gentle brother and kicked him."

Excavator tracks seen leaving the property show it was driven away.

"We tracked it for a couple of kilometres up the road into forestry land," Ms Rogers said.

"We also suspect the trailer generator was transferred to a four-

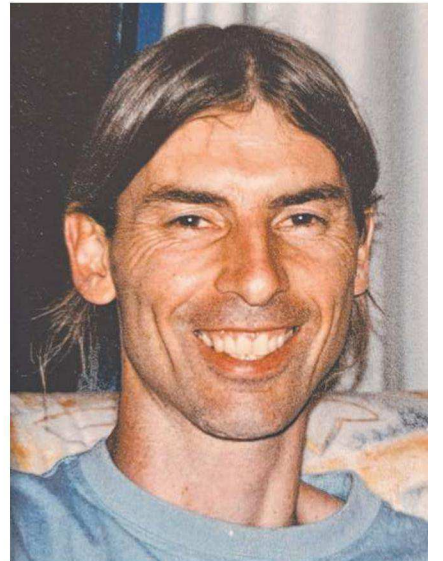
wheel drive, possibly towing a trailer which was probably carrying the other items.

"We are asking for anyone living in the Sprent/Castra area to check any surveillance footage you may have prior to October 9."

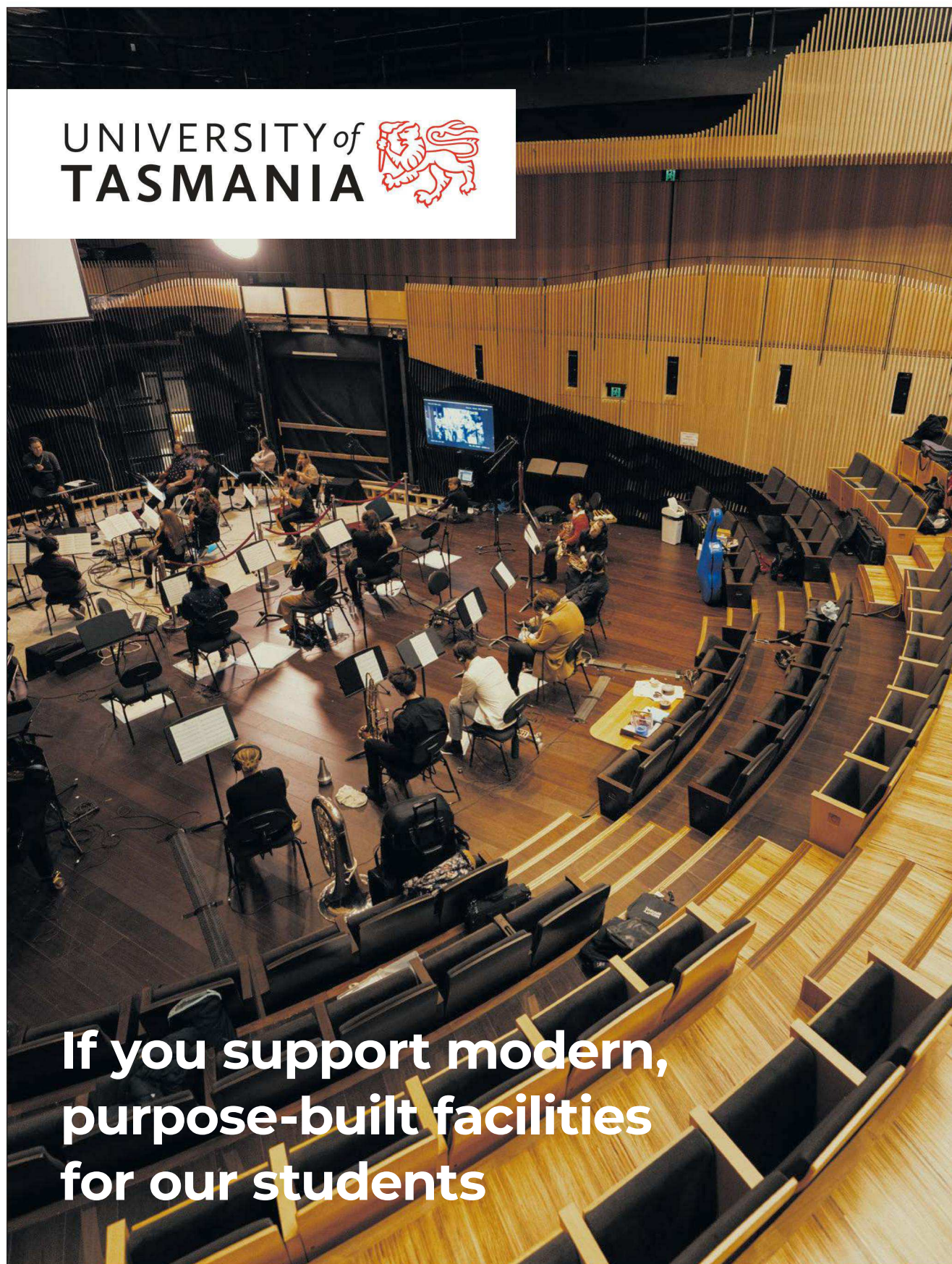
There is no suggestion those charged in relation to Mr Jupp's death are connected to the theft of his property.

If you know anything about the theft please call Tasmania Police or Angela on 64 371600.

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Dean Jupp was allegedly murdered at his home at Sprent.



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Saxon Creek Bridge at Frankford Rd is closed due to flood damage. Picture: Peter Dohnt

CALLS FOR URGENT BRIDGE REPAIRS

BREE HALL, DAVID KILLICK

MINISTER for Transport and Infrastructure Michael Ferguson vowed the government would do everything possible and spare no expense to ensure the Cam River Bridge is reopened as soon as possible.

It comes after the flood-damaged bridge at Somerset was reduced to one lane of traffic, leaving travellers stranded for hours on the side of the road.

Shadow Health Minister Anita Dow said bus services were also cancelled and children were encouraged to stay at home rather than go to school.

"The government must outline its plans for emergency services and how the hospital will be accessed under such circumstances," Ms Dow said.

"This is a major freight route and there is currently no information on how freight, perishables and materials will be moved through the region.

"Minister Ferguson and the government has known of the issues with the Cam River Bridge for quite some time but yet the Liberal Government has failed to come up with a contingency plan."

The long delays frustrated commuters across the state's north.

"It's a long wait, my husband works in Wynyard and we live in Acton he left here at 6.30am and just got



Cam River Bridge

to work at 8," wrote Rachel Wigg in the Burnie Community Noticeboard group.

Another member of the community group, Leonie Middy, also commented that a trip to Somerset which typically takes 20 minutes took 3.5 hours.

Mr Ferguson apologised for the travel disruption saying the lane closure had to be done to protect human lives as a direct result of the flood emergency.

"The Government understands the importance of community updates and as soon as we have information that may assist people in the North West in making their daily plans, we will continue to share updates as appropriate.

"This damage really highlights why we need the new Cam River Bridge – which is designed to be higher, stronger and wider to ensure this situation does not occur again.

"Despite the disruption, most people have been very understanding. I thank community members for their patience as our team keeps everyone safe."