



Tasmania. Most of us take it for granted most of the time, but at this time of reflection we should be counting our blessings.

Tasmanian politicians know why most punters offer them little respect and most know only they can change the image.

And the remedy: just tell us how it is, listen to the wider community and be honest. Easy ain't it?

A notable exception is the popular Andrew Wilkie.

He has had another exceptional year servicing his electorate and the nation's best interests.

His popularity is not an accident.

And for a political New Year resolution: "Give more than you take and exude bonhomie" might be a useful start.

Bill Handbury is a North Hobart artist

... make it a part of your life

by a family member to give some of their time, to which they responded: "I don't get out of bed if there isn't a dollar in it."

I wonder what connection people with that mindset have with their community. I don't criticise that mindset. I believe we are brought up to think that way. Get an education, a job, buy a house, have children, and work the rest of your life raising those kids and paying off the mortgage, building possessions on the way through, and making sure they aren't reliant on the public purse in retirement. They often look down on those "who have nothing".

As a result of that societal mindset, I worry that work has become their whole life, not necessarily by choice, but rather the way life just panned out, and as a sense of what is expected of them in society.

It concerns me that it would seem one side of town is focused on, dare I call it, wealth creation, and the other, on the wellbeing of their fellow citizens, their community. I ask who is "wealthier" for it? Who will reflect most favourably on a life well lived at the end of their days? So where in fact is the Top End of Town?

In this festive season I ask people to think about others, to think about

whether their priorities give them fulfilment. I encourage them to think about what they do to keep themselves busy. Connecting to community through volunteering is both personally fulfilling, but also hugely enlightening. Don't just connect at Christmas time. Make it a part of your life.

John Stublely is a chartered accountant who worked in public practice helping businesses succeed, for 22 years, before taking on the role of CEO of Hobart City Mission from 2013 to 2021.

Concern over the way courses are delivered

John Livermore says just let teachers teach

THE emphasis by UTAS on online learning is not new. Back in the late '70s and '80s the Faculty of Economics and Commerce was putting lectures online as were other departments of the university.

As part of this development it did not detract from face-to-face contact in the tutorials I and other staff and tutors ran.

I would pair students in tutorials for assignment presentation and with the increase in overseas students could match Jack Sproule from New Norfolk with Wei Ho from Shanghai.

Like most staff in the university at the time I found that in developing the analytical skills and presentation by students in tutorials they got to appreciate the need to communicate and encouragement to learn.

I once had, in my Marketing Law tutorials, one student who ran wine tastings for Tasmanian producers paired with a female student who worked in hospitality.

We ended up with a wine and cheese session.

Dr Richard Herr at this time was well known for his 'port tutes' which had an Oxford ring.

In this period the university appointed the late Dr Harry Stanton to improve teaching standards of academic staff.

This resulted in others and myself incorporating in lectures Q&A sessions and set questions for informal groups to consider.

One of my first-year students made a video illustrating the nature of partnership which was well received in the Burbury lecture theatre.

Contrast this with the current system dictated by UTAS management.

Joss Stagg, a current student in the Business School complains: "My peers and I find it difficult to have a voice amid the university's restructure. We have found that even though we are on-campus students for the most part all our lectures have been moved online. There is no quality control and sometimes are recordings from previous years. For third year students we have one three-hour workshop every three weeks and that is the only interaction with our peers and professors. It is pretty bad. I have applied for postgraduate course interstate as there is no difference to me studying distance at another university."



UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

Like Joss Stagg, James McKee claims "I am currently in my penultimate year of a Bachelor of Laws at UTAS and have experienced first hand the changes in content delivery over the past three years. My degree has been continuously disrupted by changes in content delivery, introduction and removal of lectures, changes to tutorials and high staff turnover".

On this last issue a staff source estimates that 50 per cent of all Law School staff has changed since January 2021.

The resultant backlash from students, law senior alumni, judges and the Law Society led to a serious back pedalling by UTAS management.

Its concession to allow law staff to teach in the way they deemed best (within resources) was one of the key points that led the Law Society pulling an open letter they were about to publish in the Mercury and other major newspapers.

If the Law School are allowed to teach "as they deem best" why not the rest of UTAS staff?

Or does this require relevant professional bodies (such as the Australian Society of Accountants) to put pressure on the Business School and UTAS management?

John Livermore was the Former Dean Faculty of Economics and Commerce