



MAGISTRATES COURT *of* TASMANIA

CORONIAL DIVISION

Record of Investigation into Death (Without Inquest)

Coroners Act 1995
Coroners Rules 2006
Rule 11

I, Olivia McTaggart, Coroner, having investigated the death of Vincent Patrick Curtain

Find, pursuant to Section 28(1) of the *Coroners Act 1995*, that

- a) The identity of the deceased is Vincent Patrick Curtain, date of birth 17 November 1998.
- b) Mr Curtain was 26 years of age and lived at Woolnorth with his partner, Bonnie Fishman, and their 2-year-old son. He was employed as a farm manager at a dairy farm in Woolnorth.

On 30 January 2025 between 5.00pm and 7.30pm, Mr Curtain and a group of friends played golf at the Smithton Golf Club. He and others in the group consumed beer at the golf club and left at 8.00pm. Mr Curtain then purchased some alcohol and went to the Montagu residence of Casey Gray, one of those in the golf group. At Mr Gray's house, Mr Curtain consumed five cans of Highland Scotch.¹ Just before midnight, Mr Curtain said he was going to go home. Mr Gray offered to give him a lift, but he declined and left Mr Gray's residence to drive himself home. He was scheduled to catch a plane early that morning for a friend's wedding in Melbourne.

Nearly five hours later, at 4.38am on 31 January 2025, police received a 000 call from a passing motorist on West Montagu Road regarding a car crash. At 5.22am, police officers arrived at the scene and observed a Mitsubishi Triton utility on its roof in the shrubs on the side of the road. It was extensively damaged. They subsequently located Mr Curtain lying nearby in the scrub. He was severely injured and clearly deceased.

The extensive evidence in the investigation, including specialised investigations by crash investigators, allows me to find that Mr Curtain was

¹ Mixed whiskey and cola, alcohol volume 4.80%.

travelling in a westerly direction on West Montagu Road at about 118km/h, far in excess of the posted 70km/h speed limit for the road. He lost control of his vehicle when attempting to negotiate a left-hand bend. As a result, the vehicle swerved into the opposite lane and into the opposite gravel verge, before crossing back into the correct lane and impacting a drainage culvert. The vehicle then became airborne before crashing into a telegraph pole and flipping onto its roof and landing in the scrub. Mr Curtain was not wearing his seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle during the crash. Containers of alcohol were located in the vehicle, including a partially consumed bottle of bourbon whiskey. Toxicological analysis of Mr Curtain's post-mortem blood and fluid samples indicated that his blood alcohol concentration at the time of the crash was very high, between 0.160g/100mL and 0.238g/100mL.

There is no indication that Mr Curtain had suicidal intentions. I am satisfied that his death was accidental in manner and solely caused by his excessive speed, high level of alcohol intoxication and failure to wear a seatbelt.

- c) Mr Curtain died as a result of multiple, severe injuries sustained in the crash.
- d) Mr Curtain died between 30 and 31 January 2025 at Woolnorth, Tasmania.

In making the above findings, I have had regard to the evidence gained in the investigation into Mr Curtain's death. The evidence includes:

- The Police Report of Death for the Coroner;
- Affidavits confirming identity;
- Opinion of the forensic pathologist regarding cause of death;
- Toxicology report from Forensic Science Service Tasmania;
- Medical records from the Tasmanian Health Service;
- Medical records from Ochre Medical Smithton;
- Affidavit of Bonnie Fishman, partner of Mr Curtain;
- Affidavit of Casey Gray, friend of Mr Curtain;
- Affidavit of four attending and investigating police officers, including photographs and body worn camera footage;
- Data extracted from Mr Curtain's vehicle;
- Report of vehicle inspector, Caleb Davies; and
- Collision analysis report of Senior Constable Damian Howden.

Comments and Recommendations

Mr Curtain's tragic and preventable death was caused directly by his decision to drive whilst extremely intoxicated. Despite it being widely known in the community that there is a high risk of death or severe injury in deciding to drive in such circumstances, lives continue to be lost in the same way.

I extend my appreciation to Senior Constable Mark Hickey for his report and, in particular, the comprehensive crash analysis prepared by Senior Constable Damian Howden.

I convey my sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr Curtain.

Dated: 4 September 2026 at Hobart, in the State of Tasmania.

Olivia McTaggart
Coroner