

Boiling water poured on thrill killer

PAIGE TAYLOR

Trudi Lenon, who delivered an autistic teenager to her murder-obsessed landlord for a "thrill kill", has been severely burnt with boiling water for a second time in jail, this time while lining up for daily medication.

West Australian prison authorities have been asked to consider whether one or both of the attacks on Lenon, 44, could be linked to fellow murderer Jemma Lilley, the woman Lenon once worshipped but whom she turned against in their joint murder trial last year.

Lilley, 26, blames Lenon for the murder of 18-year-old Aaron Pajich and for her incarceration.



Lilley Lenon

The Australian has been told the two women were put in separate jails after the first attack soon after their arrests in 2016.

Lenon has remained at Perth's Bandyup Women's Prison while Lilley is at Melaleuca, a privately run rehabilitation and remand centre in the city's south.

At Melaleuca, each prisoner gets their own "Personal Officer"

Partner demands answers to jail death

A young widow wants answers from one of Melbourne's biggest prisons after her jailed partner was stabbed to death.

Hassan Jeng, 23, was found with a stabbed chest after he was attacked by another inmate just before 7pm on Monday in his unit in Port Phillip Prison.

to "link them to specialist support services".

According to its website, Melaleuca has a mission to "help women to adjust and cope with the pressures of incarceration, especially during the stressful period of initial imprisonment".

Agnes Tontoe told Nine Network News she was "so young to be a widow" and wanted to know how the father of her three children had ended up dead in the privately run prison. "I don't know how to tell them (her three children). They loved their daddy so much," she said.

The Herald Sun reports Jeng, originally from Sierra Leone, was a low-level drug runner who

was working in the laundry area and was killed for allegedly refusing to help smuggle drugs into the jail. It is also believed he was in a unit for at-risk prisoners at the time of his death.

Six other inmates were found by officers with Jeng when they called for paramedics.

Several have been detained by Victoria Police's Homicide Squad.

RICHARD FERGUSON

tormented by prisoners who believe Lilley's version of events.

The five-week trial learned from Lilley's own diary entries that it was her dream to kill someone for the thrill of it. She was a "dominant" to Lenon in grotesque murder-fetish role-play leading up to Pajich's death in June 2016.

The jury learned Lenon was "obsequious" to Lilley; she made one of her three sons make Lilley's lunches, she brought her marijuana and served her steak after Lilley stabbed Pajich to death.

But the women adopted a "cut-throat defence" at trial, implicating each other in Pajich's murder.

The jury found them both guilty and they are due to be sentenced next month.

Pajich was stabbed three times and buried in the backyard of the home Lilley owned.

The jury heard Lilley boasted to a co-worker about killing Pajich and planned to get a celebratory tattoo of an evil jester she called "The Fool". In prison, she got a guard to print out an image of "The Fool" and made a pressed tin image of it in art class.

WA Police did not name Lenon yesterday but confirmed it was investigating Monday's attack.

At 8am on Monday, CCTV at Bandyup recorded a female prisoner creeping up behind Lenon and tipping five litres of boiling hot water over her shoulders, back, neck, breasts and arms. The severe burns reached Lenon's fingers and

she was last night in a stable condition at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

"People who have some sympathy for Trudi are very suspicious that she is getting attacked and Jemma is not," a source close to Lenon told The Australian.

But a guard said emotions often ran high at Bandyup and "Lenon could have pissed anyone off for any reason".

State Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan did not comment.

The attacks come three months after a Queensland court sentenced prisoner Adam Paul Davidson, 31, to three years' jail for tipping boiling water over Daniel Morcombe's killer, Brett Peter Cowan. Cowan killed schoolboy Morcombe in 2003.

Apple Isle's harbourside haven gets property bug

MATTHEW DENHOLM TASMANIA CORRESPONDENT

These are strange days in Hobart: cranes punctuate the skyline, locals complain of traffic jams and even the most devoted foodie can't keep pace with the proliferation of trendy bars and eateries.

It's a long way from the city's former status as Australia's "basket case" capital. Hobartians have even caught that great Sydneysider disease: an obsession with property prices.

And well they might. The latest CoreLogic home value data released yesterday shows Hobart property prices grew 12.3 per cent last year, almost triple the national average of 4.2 per cent and quadruple Sydney's 3.1 per cent.

As the property market cools or regresses on the mainland, investors are attracted by Hobart's low prices — the median home value is still only \$403,800; the lowest of all capitals — and strong demand for rental properties.

A sustained state economic recovery is encouraging locals to upgrade their homes, while population growth — so long stagnant in Tasmania — has been on an upward trend since 2013.

Once a net exporter of people to mainland states, the island — and its pretty harbourside capital in particular — are experiencing a net inflow of interstate migration.

A report published last month by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry revealed the extent of this turnaround: from a net outflow peaking at more than 2800 people in the year ending September 2013, to a net inflow of 681 in the year ended last March.

Also being lured are foreigners, with net overseas immigration adding more than 1000 to the population each year.

Among that number are Sal and Steve Bucksey, who moved to Hobart from England last April, with their young daughters, Mia and Kirby.

Mrs Bucksey wanted to be closer to her brother in Sydney, but chose Hobart after securing a job she wanted in primary health management, and because of the city's natural attractions, climate and lifestyle.

"We didn't want to be anywhere too hot — with a very fair youngest daughter — and Hobart isn't suburbia as somewhere like Sydney," she said.

"We came from Dorset in the UK and so we're used to things being more rural and Tasmania ticks that box."

"We love the outdoor life and the national parks. That's the first thing we did: buy a National Parks



Sal and Steve Bucksey, with Kirby, 7, and Mia, 9, at Howrah Beach yesterday. The couple are in the market for a Hobart home

CHRIS CERERAR

pass. And we wanted beaches and to be close to the sea. That's the main pull of Hobart: it's laid-back, it's a city but it's not a city. And whoever is whingeing about the traffic, that's hilarious. There isn't traffic. I get on a bus and I'm at work in 18 minutes. That's not a commute, that's a little rest."

The influx of newcomers has helped encourage a new spirit of entrepreneurship in Tasmania, particularly in the arts, tourism, agriculture, and food and alcohol industries.

Steve Bucksey, a greenkeeper, has joined the trend; setting up his own gardening business, while the Bucksey children are "loving" their adopted home.

The couple is renting but "definitely" plan to buy a house as soon as their Australian residency is sorted. With pounds in the bank from the sale of their home in Britain, they are not deterred by the property price surge. "We're certainly not looking to leave," Mrs Bucksey said.

Cracks in housing market let in some light

ELIZABETH REDMAN

Once white-hot housing markets are in for a very different 2018, with prices expected to slide as borrowers find it harder to get a loan, some investors drop out of the market and interest rates look more likely to rise than fall.

Homebuyers are already starting to find the market less competitive as supply increases, but a soft landing is likely as population and jobs growth support demand.

Regulatory clamps on lending are taking effect. Sydney prices have dropped at a modest but accelerating pace in recent months, according to property researcher CoreLogic. Sydney could fall 5 to 10 per cent over two years, based on how the market behaved after the boom of the early 2000s, CoreLogic head of research Tim Lawless said.

PROPERTY WINNERS AND LOSERS

	Dec 2017	Annual	Median value
Sydney	-0.9%	3.1%	\$895,342
Melbourne	-0.2%	8.9%	\$720,417
Brisbane	0.0%	2.4%	\$491,391
Adelaide	0.2%	3.0%	\$432,772
Perth	-0.1%	-2.3%	\$463,886
Hobart	1.5%	12.3%	\$403,800
Darwin	-0.9%	-6.5%	\$424,901
Canberra	0.2%	4.9%	\$591,011

Source: CoreLogic

"We are expecting that the (Sydney) market's going to be much softer in 2018 than it was in 2017," he said. "The market's not falling off a cliff. I think it's quite controlled. I think it's exactly what regulators would be hoping for."

Home values in Sydney fell 0.9 per cent last month as the pace of decline over recent months accelerated, according to the

CoreLogic December home value index. Sydney prices finished the year just 3.1 per cent higher — after hitting an 18.9 per cent annual gain in March — but they are up 70.8 per cent since early 2012. National values were down 0.3 per cent over December and rose 4.2 per cent over the year.

In Sydney, Tony Do and Jessica Song, both 35, with three-year-old

son Ezra, managed to buy a family home closer to the city than they expected. "The fact we could end up in Lindfield is probably because the market has cooled a bit," Ms Song said.

Mr Do said the couple would sell their current apartment. "We've seen how the market turned in our favour when we're buying but if we leave it too long it might turn further," he said.

Buyer's agent Henny Stier, principal buyer at OH Property Group, has seen properties being offered at lower prices — with taglines such as "must sell" — after passing in at auction.

The Melbourne market was down 0.2 per cent over December, the first monthly fall since February 2016. But Ray White chairman Brian White said the group expected to record its best December ever, "much better than we anticipated".

'Mini tornado' rips roof off town's pub



HAYLEY STEWART

Roofing wrapped around power poles in Maclean yesterday

EMILY RITCHIE RHIAN DEUTROM

A severe storm caused extensive damage and minor flooding in the NSW northern rivers region yesterday, ripping the roof off a local pub and leaving many homes without power.

The town of Maclean was worst hit by the intense thunderstorm, described by residents as feeling like a cyclone or "mini tornado".

Wind gusts ripped roofs off a number of buildings, the worst roof damage affecting the local pub, the Clarence Hotel.

The severe weather brought down powerlines and trapped staff and shoppers inside buildings on River Street for most of the afternoon.

Bureau of Meteorology duty forecaster Jake Phillips said high heat and humidity over the weekend provided the perfect ingredients for extreme thunderstorms to develop.

"These storms started on the northern tablelands and moved across the coast in the early afternoon," Mr Phillips said. "Often these large thunderstorms form microbursts, which on occasion can be as strong as a tornado."

He said wind gusts in some areas of the state would have surpassed 100km/h yesterday.

"What you see with these microbursts is intense winds can be very localised; people might see half of the town receiving a lot of damage and the other half completely unaffected," he said.



HAYLEY STEWART

Debris after the storm

Other areas up north received major rain, with Repentance Creek, west of Byron Bay, recording 68mm in an hour.

A school in Maclean and the local showground were also damaged. "We have had reports of damage to the showground roof, various council buildings and even the Maclean SES has had some damage," an SES spokeswoman said.

As the storm passed Grafton, it caused minor flooding at Buntings and BCF on Iolanthe Street and long delays for motorists stranded by the floodwaters.

The Bureau of Meteorology late yesterday warned that more severe thunderstorms were on the way for much of NSW including Lismore, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Scone, Cessnock, Nowra, Bowral, Katoomba, Maclean, Woolgoolga, Sawtell and Dorrigo. Damaging winds, flash flooding and hail were predicted.

Fireworks victim serious but stable

A pyrotechnics officer who was rushed to hospital by the Royal Flying Doctor Service after fireworks exploded in her face on New Year's Eve was last night in a serious but stable condition.

Celebrations on Sunday at Bunbury Trotting Club, 200km south of Perth, were cut short when the woman, aged in her 60s, was caught in an explosion about 11.30pm.

She was flown to Royal Perth Hospital with burns that were considered life-threatening but as of yesterday she was showing some signs of recovery.

The victim is an employee of Perth's Cardle Fireworks, which was co-ordinating the display. It is believed she had been handling the fireworks when the incident occurred.

The company has been operating in Western Australia for more than 100 years.

Worksafe is investigating the incident.

AAP

Humans proving dolphins' biggest threat

LUKE GRIFFITHS

Coffin Bay, at the western foot of South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, is home to a highly concentrated dolphin population that needs better protection from "human pressures", a study has found.

A 30-minute drive west of Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay has about 300 southern Australian bottlenose dolphins, according to Flinders University's Cetacean Ecology, Behaviour and Evolution Lab, with most of them inhabiting the bay's inner waters.

Forming part of Thorny Passage Marine Park, Coffin Bay is a temperate region with seasonal changes in water conditions and lead researcher Cecilia Passadore said the "rather unusual strong site fidelity" was likely due to a secure year-round food supply coupled with low risk from predators.

"The most surprising aspect of our findings was the individuals'



FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

About 300 dolphins have made Coffin Bay their home

space-use patterns. We started guessing which individuals we'd find depending on the part of Coffin Bay we were surveying, and our guesses proved right-on," she said.

Fellow researcher Guido Parra said such localised movement made the dolphins particularly vulnerable to "human pressures" that included habitat

degradation, water sports, and tourism. Unlike sea lions, fur seals and southern right whales, bottlenose dolphins are not included in the marine park's current monitoring program, something Dr Parra and Dr Passadore want changed. "Now we know Coffin Bay is an important area for southern Australian bottlenose dolphins, they should be consid-

ered as a species of ecological value," Dr Passadore said.

"This will allow the use of the park's management framework to ensure the long-term monitoring of the dolphin population, detection of trends and impact assessment of potential threats, which will contribute to the conservation of this species."

A spokeswoman for South Australia's Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources said "monitoring results and contemporary research" would be considered during a mandated review of the marine park management plan in 2022.

"There is no evidence of any immediate threat to bottlenose dolphin in the area," she said.

Interaction between marine mammals and vessels, as well as tourism operations, is regulated, with restrictions on the distance and speed of vessels approaching dolphins, and restrictions on swimmers and food provisioning in place.

Murder charge over SUV attack

Victoria Police has charged the man allegedly behind the Melbourne vehicle attack with murder.

Saeed Noori has had one charge of attempted murder upgraded after a man, 83, died in hospital last Friday.

Mr Noori allegedly drove a white Suzuki SUV into a crowd of 18 people at the Flinders and Elizabeth streets intersection nearly a fortnight ago.

The 32-year-old, who came to Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan in 2004, now faces one count of murder, 17 counts of attempted murder and one of conduct endangering life.

Antonios Crocari, a grandfather from Northcote, is the sole fatality. Three other people remain in hospital.

Police said Mr Noori was struggling with mental health and addiction issues. He will appear in Melbourne's Magistrates Court on May 30.

RICHARD FERGUSON

Probiotic to lessen colicky nightmares

EMILY RITCHIE OLIVIA CAISLEY

Mothers struggling with breastfed newborns who cry excessively for no apparent reason may experience some relief by taking a certain probiotic.

Researchers from Murdoch Children's Research Institute, in collaboration with 11 other institutions around the world, have found that the probiotic Lactobacillus reuteri has the potential to alleviate excessive crying, or colic, in exclusively breastfed babies less than 3 months old.

Colic reportedly affects one in five families, and usually describes babies who cry or fuss a lot and can't be settled easily.

It has been associated with maternal depression and early breastfeeding cessation, and until now there has been no effective treatment.

Pediatrician and lead author from the MCRI Valerie Sung said the study pooled data from four smaller studies of 345 colicky babies in Italy, Poland, Canada and Australia. "What we found was that the probiotic was effective in babies who were exclus-

ively breastfed," Dr Sung said. "For breastfed babies, the effectiveness is such that the probiotic was twice as likely to receive treatment success."

She said there was a 50 per cent improvement to the amount of crying and a 15 minute reduction to the time spent crying.

Victorian mother Kim Hutchinson said her second daughter Celia, who was born late last year, had been extremely colicky, which has proved a tough challenge for her young family.

She said she was encouraged by the study's findings and had booked an appointment with her doctor to start exploring treatment options.

Dr Sung said while the study was hopeful, the lack of studies on formula-fed babies meant it should not be considered an automatic cure.

"Ultimately, the effectiveness of this treatment will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, but I think it's worth trying," she said. "I wouldn't say it's the definitive treatment and will make crying go away completely but it will help a little bit. It should be offered in conjunction with other supportive management."