

THE AUSTRALIAN

Travel + LUXURY

CATCH THE DRIFT: Slow, sustainable travel IN THE AUSTRALIAN THIS FRIDAY



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Green for go in tourism rebirth

Industry insiders are predicting a green shoots turnaround

GEORGE EPAMINONDAS

After enduring two calamitous years, travel industry insiders are predicting a green shoots turnaround...

It's about making considered decisions rather than ticking boxes on fleeting visits, which can be cheap while literally costing the earth...

Regenerative trips are blossoming, according to Tourism Australia. That could mean staying at a lodge such as Arkaba Conservancy...

Citizen science trips, which fall under purpose-led travel, are a key driver, says John O'Sullivan, chief executive officer of Experience Co.

powered pontoon at Moore Reef, 45km from Cairns, with an underwater observatory and laboratory. 'The ability to better understand an environmental attraction like the Great Barrier Reef will become the trend of the future'.

Superyacht charters are already moving in that direction, with increasing demand from well-heeled guests for voyages both sensational and educational.

Experience Co's O'Sullivan recommends checking whether a company is affiliated with Eco-tourism Australia or collectives such as Great Walks of Australia.



Environmentalist Nicole Senn and marine scientist James Unworth coral surveying in the Whitsundays, above; images from their reef explorations, right



ELISE HASSY

Husband on Valentine's kill charge

LYDIA LYNCH

A man has been charged with the murder of his wife after her blood-covered body was found at a luxury Queensland resort on Valentine's Day.

Sunshine Coast man Jeffrey James Godfrey, 50, appeared briefly in court on Tuesday morning over the death of his 46-year-old wife, Vanessa Godfrey.

Detectives say the two were at Pelican Waters Resort at Caloundra for a social function at the weekend and "a number of people (were) staying at the unit".

Staff at the golfing resort found Ms Godfrey's body during a welfare check after the couple failed to check out of their room on Monday morning.

"When they undertook that, they found the female deceased on the bed in the room and there was an unconscious male in the room," Detective Inspector Dave Drinnen said.

"It was physically obvious she was deceased, she was covered in blood and there were some wounds on her arm."

Inspector Drinnen said the scene was "very horrific" for the resort staff member who made the discovery.

Mr Godfrey, initially found unconscious, was "able to speak" with paramedics when they arrived. His domestic violence charge was adjourned in the Maroochydore Magistrates Court until May 6 and there was no application for bail.

Inspector Drinnen could not say how Ms Godfrey died. "We've still got a forensic examination being undertaken. We also will have an autopsy which will not only give us the cause of death, but allow us to understand how that death was caused."

If you need help, call 1800 737 732 or triple-0 in an emergency.

'It doesn't matter what jail he rots in': SAS trial

PERRY DUFFIN

"It doesn't matter what happens to him or what jail cell he rots in," Ben Roberts-Smith's wife was told by her closest confidante as she went through a bitter divorce, a court heard on Tuesday.

Emma Roberts, in her brutal response, describes the father of her children as "a lying, cheating c. of a human" who was going down like the doomed Titanic.

The messages between Ms Roberts and her best friend were read in the Federal Court on Tuesday as Mr Roberts-Smith's lawyers probe her alleged role in a series of damaging articles in Newsweek.

Mr Roberts-Smith is suing Nine and its journalists over the articles that claim he killed six detained Afghans while deployed, cheated on his wife and physically abused his mistress.

The Victoria Cross recipient denies every allegation, Nine maintains they are true. Nine called Ms Roberts to give evidence against her former husband this week where she detailed the impact Nine's reporting had on the Roberts-Smith family.

By mid-2018, the court heard, Nine had alleged Mr Roberts-Smith was a war criminal and his mistress had revealed their relationship by arriving unannounced at his family home.

The family had been thrown "into chaos" by the accusations and investigations.

Ms Roberts said she spoke frequently with her best friend, Danielle Scott, through the "bitter, bitter divorce" that followed. It was during a series of text messages, from November 2020, that Ms Scott said Ms Roberts needed to become financially secure.

She also said it "didn't matter" which prison cell Mr Roberts-

'He won't go to jail'

'I don't think he will either but (he'll) be destroyed'

SMITH "rots in". Ms Roberts responded with a "yes" and an emoji of two praying hands, Mr Roberts-Smith's barrister, Bruce McClintock SC, told the court.

"You'd very much like to see (Mr Roberts-Smith) rotting in a jail cell," Mr McClintock said.

"No, I absolutely would not," Ms Roberts responded.

Mr McClintock said Ms Roberts and Ms Scott kept messaging laughing emojis indicating "glee" if he was locked up.

"He won't go to jail," Ms Roberts told Ms Scott.

"I don't think he will either but (he'll) be destroyed," Ms Scott said.

"Because he's a lying, cheating c. of a human," Ms Roberts said, following up with another message "titanic".

Ms Roberts' private text messages, according to Mr Roberts-Smith's lawyers, reveal she hated her husband and was motivated by "revenge" to leak his private information to Nine.

"You'd very much like to see him lose this case, wouldn't you?" barrister Mr McClintock asked.

"I hope Ben survives this nightmare," Ms Roberts said.

Ms Roberts denies she is the source of leaked images from the SAS base in Afghanistan that became central to some of Nine's reports.

Nine claims Mr Roberts-Smith had buried a child's lunch box containing USBs in the backyard of the family home.

Ms Roberts made similar claims in court - that she and Ms Scott noticed disturbed earth beneath a hose reel and dug up the lunch box with a pitchfork.

She told the court Ms Scott had copied the contents of the USBs, which included photographs of Mr Roberts-Smith's deployments in Afghanistan and images of parties at the SAS base, including with soldiers dressed as the KKK and drinking from a dead Taliban's prosthetic leg.

Mr Roberts-Smith's lawyers also accuse Ms Roberts of leaking confidential emails to Nine either directly or through Ms Scott - who had been given access to Mr Roberts-Smith's account.

His lawyers said it was "sneaky and dishonest" to allow Ms Scott to access the emails an estimated 101 times; Ms Roberts said her friend was "helping me during a very difficult time".

NCA NEWSWIRE

Annulling of journo's award under review

SOPHIE ELSWORTH

The decision to strip an Age sports journalist of a prestigious media award after apologies were made about his story that was subsequently removed from all online platforms is now under a cloud and will be part of an urgent independent review.

The Melbourne Press Club held an extraordinary general meeting via Zoom on Tuesday morning after receiving complaints from media representatives from various publications over the board's unprecedented decision to "annul" reporter Sam McClure's 2020 Quill in the sports news category.

The Australian broke the story that McClure had his Victorian sports award taken from him after issues arose from his reports on the Adelaide Crows' 2018 Queensland training camp - The Age issued extensive apologies and removed the content from all its digital channels.

On Tuesday, the board - led by president and Age journalist Nick McKenzie - issued a joint statement that said the decision to strip McClure of his honour involved "serious and complex issues" and the process that took place would be scrutinised via an independent review.

"The board agreed to carefully review the process that should be undertaken when a story that is decorated is later retracted or subject to other actions in connection to the settlement of a legal action," the statement said.

"The board will appoint a suitably qualified independent party/parties."

Stakeholders, including McClure, will be involved in the review process.

Apologies were issued by The Age after legal action was taken by Queensland-based high-performance mindset training specialists who ran the Crows' training camp, Collective Mind and its operators, Derek Leddie and Anton Wouffe.

The pair took action against McClure, The Age's former chief football writer Caroline Wilson, Nine and The Age over allegations relating to what occurred at the training camp.

It is unclear how long the review process will take. The Age editor Gay Alcorn said they "only ever requested a fair process".

Frock and awe: fashion police faux pas leads to Seinfeld-style crime caper



'Traumatic': Kirsty Reed

DAMON JOHNSTON

Kirsty Reed feels she's been stuck in an episode of Seinfeld for almost two years, but there have been no laughs for the Hawthorn doctor as she's endured four police raids and criminal charges.

In the opening scene of the dark sitcom, Dr Reed finds herself accused of a crime of fashion by a neighbour in her apartment complex in her well-to-do suburb.

the neckline (\$29) and a \$100 jar of "transforming night cream" ordered online are missing.

A posse with a reputation for losing deliveries says he made a delivery to Dr Reed and she had agreed to hand the parcels over to her neighbour.

Cut to 7.36am on October 29, 2020: five police officers launch a raid on Dr Reed's apartment, searching it and arresting her.

"We have a search warrant in relation to parcel theft," the sergeant tells her, as recorded on police body cameras.

I thought that was all sorted - the posse said 'Oh yeah, no that was my stuff up'."

The sergeant then says: "No, there have been more enquiries made - we have a search warrant."

Police then drive Dr Reed to the Camberwell cop shop where she spends hours in a holding cell.

Dr Reed, who holds a PhD in molecular biology, was subsequently slapped with three criminal charges of theft and deception relating to the alleged frock heist.

In a dramatic plot twist on Monday, Victoria Police dropped all three charges against Dr Reed and Chief Commissioner Shane Patton agreed to pay her \$2708 legal bill.

"It's been incredibly traumatic and horrifying," she told The Australian. "It demonstrated such a lack of common sense (by police). Nothing about this ever made any sense. But it's good to see that eventually the truth prevailed."

Victoria Police defended its conduct, saying a thorough investigation was conducted following the report of a theft at a property in Wallen Road in Hawthorn in October 2020. "A brief of evidence was prepared at the time and authorised for prosecution," a police spokesperson said. "A range of cir-

cumstances are taken into account following authorisation and if it is determined there is insufficient evidence to support a conviction, charges may be withdrawn.

"On this occasion, the charges have been withdrawn and costs awarded against police."

Glenn Tong, Dr Reed's husband, was scathing of the conduct of Victoria Police, which he said wasted public resources in taking multiple witness statements and compiling a brief running to more than 50 pages.

She's a free woman after 20 months of hounding. There is no way five police can be justified in

raiding a home over \$300 worth of goods," he said.

"It's better than Seinfeld, because when we told them (during the raid) this was a bit of overkill, the senior copper said to me, 'Well, mate, we have to gather evidence, so we have to maintain a level of surprise.'"

The ruckus ignited gossip in the complex and left Dr Reed and her husband feeling like they were not welcome in their apartment.

The couple is now preparing a formal complaint to the police integrity watchdog, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, about their ordeal.