

11 February 2016

RE: AUSTRALIAN STORY, Sea of Doubt

Dear ABC

It was very much an Un-Australian Story showing bias, non fact and innuendo whilst focusing on negative account with gaping omissions.

It would be interesting to see full interviews compared to inquest statements, transcript as well as the statements ignored by the coroner such as Kylie Deans father which totally contradicts Kylies comment of me saying ten years previously(19 years ago now) that "The only way I would get a yacht is to push someone overboard". The coroner Mary Jerram stated Miss Kylie Dean was a very credible witness but ignored the statement by her own father saying that Kylie was very bitter toward me for breaking up with her and going out with a well known model. He also stated that it was him that had stated this to his daughter jokingly. I was not present. This statement was disregarded by the coroner's court.

Re-enactments were inaccurate and Galapagos was the only logical choice as Pitcairn and Rapa Nui (Easter) islands have no and very little shelter with no repair facilities. Expert opinion backs my decisions on this.

Andy was gone and I reported his disappearance to the yacht "Cuttyhunk" and then at Peurto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos. If I was trying to cover anything then I would not have told the only yacht I saw about Andy's disappearance and simply said Andy disappeared after the encounter with the Cutty Hunk. If I never mentioned the disappearance to the Cutty Hunk nor to the authorities on the encounter with the Cutty Hunk then there would have been no witness nor any flack for me making my decisions.

The SSB radio was non-operational due to water damage leaving me with only VHF which only reaches to the horizon. I thought about the yacht Cutty Hunk relaying a message but then thought of my families worry. Andy was gone and it was my job to report this. No one else's. I stand by my decision.

A ten month investigation by Police, Navy and Consuls in South America followed. I was interviewed multiple times and the yacht and equipment were forensically tested. I co-operated completely.

Shortly after I arrived in Peurto Ayora, Galapagos. Louise Witten asked local authorities to remove me from Andy's yacht. She denied doing this to me and then paid a local caretaker to live on the yacht. It was common knowledge that the young local was a well known thief and equally well known that everything was going missing from the yacht. I formally raised this with local police and Louise.

I advised Andy's family to have someone come to Galapagos immediately on multiple occasions to dismiss rumours circulating in Australia, to get first hand information and aid in protecting Andy's

yacht and property. Plenty of Andy's mates offered to do so but these requests were ignored.

Andy's mate Hamish showed up at Santa Cruz around 7 months after my arrival. I had not been on Andy's yacht for over 6 months and clearly gear had been removed from the yacht. I left the yacht with my belongings which included my fishing gear. I don't know why Hamish assumed this was Andy's.

Mention of speed and distance is incorrect. It is one thing to measure and plot on a map and another in real life. Many things affect this such as wind, current, localised weather, amount of sail, even morale, mood and determination. Louise's comment of Andy's boat not handling speed is incorrect. There are speeds logged by Andy in his logbook of over 20 knots.

The program started by stating that Andy was going on the trip of a lifetime to the Caribbean West Indies that he had planned for the last two years but then it was stated that he wanted to return to Australia after reaching Tahiti? Why would Andy then log everyday into his yacht log having left Tahiti en-route to Galapagos without mention of this?

Three years later an Australian coronal inquest was launched. Police showed up in my home town seemingly intent on only gathering negative statements against me. Kylie Dean was happy to oblige. Another ex girlfriend and her mother complained to police about how these investigating policemen were attempting to put words into their mouths and twist truths. Their statements were never tendered to the coroner's court either.

As stated by the journalist in the story Emily Bourke to myself "Simon, I have been to plenty of coroners inquests but I have never seen such a witch hunt like the one against you!"

The latest so called new evidence sounds more like a scene out of Point Break.

Comments by Mr Forsyth of Australian CUSTOMS calling me an "Enigma" and being involved in a container of drugs were shown to discredit, mislead and show me in bad light. I contacted AFP and Customs regarding my concerns of the container being tampered with. I was not charged.

The towering ego of some of these people astound me saying things that are none of their business. Stating how he doesn't know how I get my money and travel the world. It's none of his business and I could be a man whore for all he knows. I am an adventurer and I make no apology to anyone for this and I certainly don't have to answer to Customs about this.

Australian Customs want to talk and throw mud about me then let's talk about Australian Customs/ACBPS/Border Force. I was charged with import of a prohibited drug in 2010. Subpoena and FOI (Freedom of Information) requests were served to Customs/ACBPS/Border Force asking what Customs officers were present at Scarborough Marina on the 12th October 2010. Customs response was **"No Customs agents were present at the Scarborough Marina on the 12th October 2010"**.

In my 2nd trial (first one was mistrialed due to non disclosure and lies by agencies) it is revealed that **"Up to 20 Customs officers were present at the Scarborough Marina on the 12th October 2010"**.

AFP and CUSTOMS lied about this and Customs continue to lie about it even though now AFP and

civilians state that Customs were there at the marina. Customs officers that were part of the operation were arrested (others ran off) handing out free cocaine in Sydney in the days after and this has attempted to be hidden by agencies. It equates to perjury, malicious prosecution and perversion of justice. Unlike the ABC story, I can back my claims with evidence.

I urge anyone that reads this with ANY information of Customs or AFP being reprimanded or first hand information of being at the Scarborough marina on the 12th October 2010 and seeing AFP and CUSTOMS removing bags from the marina during the day or any detail of officers in Sydney being arrested, reprimanded, implicated or questioned to come forward to your local parliamentary Minister or Senator, Sunday Night program on Channel 7 or Ross Coulthart of 60 minutes. The latter two will be very interested in what you have to say. Investigations are just warming up and they would love to hear from you. Agencies say nothing was removed until around 9 pm even though we have photos of AFP officers walking from the yacht with suspiciously stuffed shirts earlier in the day. Agencies have removed all detail of this corruption to the public and media. It seems there is one set of rules for citizens and another complete set of life rules for corrupt agencies.

Customs/ACBPS have recently changed their name to Border Force to legally entitle them to dump data and destroy evidence in this case. It's the equivalent to a bankrupt company changing its name to escape paying debt or simply changing company name to try to shed its bad reputation. The deep seeded culture of corruption within these Australian agencies is broad and astounding.

Sunday night program on Channel 7 touches on the corruption in this case by agencies and will air shortly but a lot more information has been disclosed since filming and my trial. Evidence and information that should have been disclosed in 2010.

Lastly, Emily Bourke's malicious personal attack on me for publicity whilst the first TV ratings are done for the year shows poor journalistic character. Her comments are based on hearsay and can't be substantiated by fact. I've never seen Australian Story report on scuttlebutt and personal unproven biased opinion of the reporter. I am surprised and disappointed that Caitlyn O'Shea as the producer allowed Emily's attack to be included in the program. Action will be taken against this in due course. It seems the ABC is attempting to increase ratings by modelling off A Current Affair.

There is something to be said of someone who pretends to befriend, flirt and sympathise with a person and then attacks them at their most vulnerable moment. As a journalist with any integrity she should have remained impartial but I can only assume a large part of the attack has to do with her being angry at me for filming with Sunday Night Program on Channel 7.

Emily's story was a personal malicious attack on my honesty, loyalty and integrity. Normal people are not put through as many inquisitions as me in these circumstances and I have never pretended to be anything other than myself. I took Emily on face value and I was wrong. I sincerely hope you never have to go through a similar experience than what I had to, as it wasn't easy.

No one wins in the loss of a life and sadly others are not content unless the scorched earth principle applies and someone is blamed. Many people fall off boats each year but rarely are people put through so much inquisitional scrutiny over 9 years. I stand behind the difficult decisions I was forced to make at those times.

The facts of my current situation will be revealed in time showing the true nature of the circumstances. ABC's Emily Bourke had the chance to show this but failed as a credible journalist.

In a response by Deborah Masters, executive producer of Australian story it was stated that " the program was consistent with views of the coroner". This raises serious concerns of credibility for your program because you filmed me showing and raising evidence that proves that the coroners view was severely flawed. Through deceptiveness of your staff I was led to believe your program would represent this and have a fair sided view of facts.

The crux of the coroner's inquest was that I was asked to attend a coronial inquest years after my friends disappearance. I was not summoned and appeared of my own accord. My brief of evidence was then intercepted, opened and copied by someone. I reported this for the record.

Mr Denman, the prosecutor stated to my legal counsel just before the start of the inquest "not to worry, we will take it easy on your guy, just a formality" then bizarrely started the inquest by airing some of my Base jumping footage and attempted to paint a picture of me being a carefree risk taker, to which Base jumpers are generally the exact opposite of.

Mr Denman had no interest in honesty, safety or the truth of a tragic accident and then attempted to establish a problem or a motive between Andy and myself to which he failed miserably. As soon as he could not sway a witness or find anything bad to say he would dismiss them off the stand. He was only interested in negative information. Andy and I never had a bad word to say about each other.

On the first weekend break, the Coroner Mary Jerram's demeanour changed completely which meant someone had spoken to her for reasons outside a coronial inquest showing the separations of powers had been breached and explained why she would then ignore the statement establishing that the "credible witness" Kylie Dean was in fact bitter and lying.

ABC Australian story knew this as I had read on camera, the contradicting statements involved and the letter that I had written and sent to Coroner/Judge Mary Jerram detailing all evidence that was simply ignored and the fact you aired none of this and also did not focus on Kylie Deans statements or her fathers shows you have little interest in facts or truths and only in orchestrated information.

I'm happy to supply this information to a non kangaroo court and a non biased factual program that is not blatantly sensationalising traumatic events purely for ratings and drama.

Simon "Enigma" Golding