

# Doc administered years of brutal DV



Anaesthetist David Bell has pleaded guilty at Picton Local Court to 17 domestic violence charges. Picture: Annie Lewis

## ANNIE LEWIS

A PROMINENT doctor held a Japanese cooking knife at his wife's throat telling her "I am going to f\*\*king kill you" in a string of domestic violence offences over three years.

David Bell, 41, fronted Picton Local Court on Wednesday where he pleaded guilty to 17 offences, including five counts of common assault, five counts of stalk or intimidate intending to cause fear of physical harm, six counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and being armed with intent.

He was originally facing

57 charges in total which included 11 counts of intentionally choking someone without consent but after his pleas of guilty, 40 of these were withdrawn and dismissed.

Court documents state that Bell is an anaesthetist who has been employed at Bowral and Campbelltown Hospitals and is on a six-figure salary. They also detailed the offences that occurred over three years starting in 2019 after Bell had been in a relationship with the victim for a few years.

The abuse outlined in the police facts started on June 3 of that year when Bell got

angry with the victim as he believed the house was untidy and his dinner was not cooked. He began to yell at the victim, slam doors and cupboards and kick things, frightening his partner.

Then in May 2020, Bell punched his partner leaving her with bruises. A few days later, he slapped her face.

In April the following year, he punched the victim and a month later he pushed her on to the floor forcefully causing bruises.

The behaviour escalated on July 17, 2021, when Bell kicked his partner in the legs while she was seated on the ground.

He then grabbed her by the throat and pushed her against a wall, police facts state. Court documents show that later that same night, Bell threatened his partner with a Japanese cooking knife, telling her "I am going to f\*\*king kill you".

On August 26, 2021, Bell read messages on the victim's smart watch and told her she better have a good lawyer as he would cut her off financially. Court documents state the victim said "don't hurt me" and Bell replied: "Why? Doesn't matter now, doesn't matter now because you have already told them that I am a violent prick and

that I'd lie about it so I may as well beat the f\*\*k out of you, so I'd at least have the f\*\*king satisfaction."

On September 26, 2021, the victim reported the matter to police after Bell had left their home in Mittagong.

Bell's legal team advised they would be seeking a section 14 application which allows a person who is charged with a criminal offence and suffers from a mental health or cognitive impairment to avoid a criminal record.

The matter has been adjourned to August 23 when, if the application is dismissed, Bell will be sentenced.

## Internet boost for remote schools

EXCLUSIVE

ANGIRA BHARADWAJ

PUBLIC schools in NSW's most remote corners will now have faster fibre internet access under the final round of a state government scheme.

The final 12 public schools in the state that had been struggling with slow satellite internet have now been connected to fibre.

Acting Premier Paul Toole said the partnership with Telstra would level the playing field for disconnected school communities.

"The Liberals' and Nationals' government is committed to offering the best educational opportunities to all NSW students no matter where they live - and that means having access to fast, reliable internet," Mr Toole (pictured) said.

"Partnering with Telstra has allowed us to move the remaining 12 public schools in NSW from satellite to fibre optic cable, ensuring fast internet for students and teachers."

Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said the internet access built on the government's investment into upgrading classrooms and giving staff and students new computers.

"Improving the internet access in regional schools is not just about faster connectivity, but also about greater access to teaching and learning opportunities for students and staff," Ms Mitchell said.

Telstra Enterprise public sector group owner John Ieraci said the project had also upgraded the speed and internet capacity at 800 other schools.

"We're thrilled to have worked with the NSW Department of Education to ensure all students, regardless of where they live, will have access to the amazing learning opportunities that quality, high-speed connectivity brings," Mr Ieraci said.



## Apology

We're sorry.  
You might have noticed  
that we made a mistake in the  
Woolworths Health and Beauty Catalogue on sale  
Wednesday 20th July. The Kapowder Detoxifier  
30ml advertised on special  
is not available.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Woolworths 

## Smart way to get fit

AUSSIE researchers have endorsed what millions of people around the world know - fitness trackers, pedometers and smart watches motivate us to exercise more and lose weight.

Wearable activity trackers encourage us to walk up to 40 minutes more each day - about 1800 more steps - resulting in an average 1kg weight loss over five months.

Researchers from the University of South Australia reviewed almost 400 studies involving 164,000 people across the world using wearable activity trackers to monitor their physical activity.

The team categorically backed the benefits of devices.

## Pubs boss in drunk crash before Best Man duties

CLARE SIBTHORPE

A TOP figure in Australia's hotel industry missed his best friend's wedding - and his duties as Best Man - after he was caught drink-driving and crashed into a property.

HTL Property national director Daniel Dragicevich (inset) was told at Waverley Local Court his actions on March 12 could have seen him swap his career for a jail stint.

According to police, Dragicevich had an argument with his partner about 2.30am on the day of the

wedding and decided to get into his silver Mercedes AMG. He was soon seen by police holding his phone while at the wheel. Police attempted to stop him, but he "sped away" before "the vehicle became airborne ... then crashing into a storage shed and the rear of a residential house".

Magistrate Ross Hudson ordered him to serve an 11-month intensive corrections order due to Dragicevich taking steps to address his alcohol issues. He was convicted of high-range drink-driving.

