

# No body, then no parole

## Law bans early release for Keli Lane because she won't reveal location of dead daughter

**Blake Antrobus**

Convicted baby killer Keli Lane has failed in her parole bid after spending more than 13 years behind bars for the murder of her daughter Tegan.

The resounding decision marks a major test of NSW's "no body, no parole" laws introduced two years ago.

In 2010 a jury found Lane, now 49, guilty of the newborn's murder. She was sentenced to a maximum of 18 years in jail but was made eligible for parole in May this year.

Lane, a former champion



water polo player, gave birth to Tegan in Sydney's Auburn Hospital on September 12, 1996 and was discharged with her daughter two days later. Lane has insisted she is innocent and instead gave the child to its father, a man named Andrew Norris or Morris.

"I must reject this explanation," Justice Whealy said in

his 2011 decision.

"I accept, as I am bound to do by the jury's verdict, that the offender deliberately and intentionally caused the death of Tegan."

NSW introduced its "no body, no parole" laws in response to the landmark murder trial of former Sydney teacher Chris Dawson, who was convicted of killing his wife Lynn 40 years ago.

Under the laws, prisoners will not be granted parole if they refuse to reveal the location of their victim's bodies or have been found to have not

co-operated satisfactorily with locating the remains of victims.

In a statement, the NSW State Parole Authority (SPA) said it was not satisfied that Lane had co-operated satisfactorily in police investigations, or other actions, to identify the location of Tegan's remains.

"The offender has provided no information regarding Tegan's whereabouts since being sentenced," SPA chair Geoff Bellew said.

"In the Authority's view, the verdict of the jury, the acceptance of the Crown case and the rejection of the offender's case

which are reflected in that verdict, and the findings of the sentencing judge which are consistent with such verdict, constitute information going to the issue of the offender's capacity to provide co-operation."

Lane's legal team said she was "not in a position" to provide assistance to police in locating Tegan's remains.

They told the SPA: "At this stage ... (she) urges that the Authority hold a hearing to have these matters properly ventilated, and, upon setting them matter down for hearing,

the offender seeks that all documentation relevant to the Authority's consideration be provided to the offender."

Lane was sent back to prison over an alleged incident in late February while on day release.

It was revealed in August last year she had been moved to a transitional centre and was working at a milk processing plant.

Lane had recently been working in the community during the day but was allegedly caught with a mobile phone, which landed her in Silverwater women's prison.

## Now and Zen you get lucky

**Mitch Fink**

Look who came in with the washing!

Employees at a Buddhist retreat in the Blue Mountains arrived to a furry surprise on Wednesday morning after they found a pygmy possum joey wrapped up in a towel in the kitchen.

The tiny critter, a female, presumably blew off a tree in the nearby bush and onto a towel drying on the retreat's clothesline, which was later taken into the kitchen with the little one cocooned inside.

Upon discovery, the employees put the possum in a box and contacted WIRES volunteer Tracy Burgess. Burgess, a Blue Mountains City councillor, was on morning tea break at work in Katoomba when the call came in.

When taken out of their usual surroundings, pygmy possums are often dehydrated from stress. So, to start, Burgess offered the joey Lactade – an electrolyte-filled fluid.

The possum, nicknamed "Zen" after the place she was rescued, weighs just 5.1 grams. Adult pygmy possums are about 15 grams. Based on measurements of her size and weight, Burgess thinks Zen is around 90 days old.

Zen is now being fed milk, which will continue for two more weeks. Next week, she'll be introduced to a gourmet diet of solid foods, like insectivore mix, blossoms and chopped up mealworms. She'll be prepared for release back into the wild at 120 days old.

According to Burgess, only around 10 pygmies are rescued each year.

"They're so cute," Burgess said of the pygmy joeys. "There's something hardwired, I think, in homo sapiens to just be very much attracted to small animals with very large eyes, because it's the big eyes that get you with the pygmies."



Little Zen a baby pygmy possum is now in the care of WIRES volunteer Anne Buttegieg. Picture: Jonathan Ng

### CYBER CRIME

## Scams up, but fewer are falling for them

Aussies are more scam savvy than a year ago and willing to share information if it helps stop criminals, NAB research shows.

Seventy per cent are ignoring suspicious calls and deleting questionable emails. Almost as many are deleting bogus text messages and not clicking on links.

NAB data showed that, while scam events reported by customers had increased by about 43 per cent, actual losses were down by about 25 per cent.

### NEW STUDY

## Dogs know toys and if they're just a trick

Dogs can really learn what their toys are called instead of just relying on context, according to international research.

Eotvos Lorand University researchers measured the brain activity of dogs while their owners identified a toy and then offered either the correct toy or a random incorrect one. The researchers say the dogs' brain activity showed a different pattern when the correct toy was presented compared to when an incorrect one was presented.

### WASTE BREAKTHROUGH

## Robots will get the really rubbish jobs

Deep learning (DL) and artificial intelligence (AI) have been used to recognise a vast array of materials and particles in mixed waste that comes from construction sites in research that could revolutionise the way construction waste materials are recycled.

The Monash University study paves the way for the use of advanced robotics and automation for construction waste processing, which currently relies on workers to manually pick through dangerous waste.

### SAFER STREETS

## Guns & drugs seized – 34 people charged

Police have charged 34 people and taken eight guns off the streets after a blitz on the South Coast.

The police force's bikie-busting Raptor Squad spent four days around Batemans Bay this week in an operation targeting regional crime.

In total, officers performed more than 360 breath tests, executed 17 firearms prohibition order warrants, issued 64 fines and seized almost \$250,000 worth of drugs.