

'It's OK, I'm a lawyer'

Ashley Argoon

Edict to police before meth find

Controversial ex-lawyer Pat Lennon told police, "I am a lawyer, you don't have to search me", before officers found a bag of meth on him, a court has heard.

Hava Brandman was with Mr Lennon when police allegedly found 11g of methamphetamines in his shoulder bag in July 2020.

The woman, who Mr Lennon is trying to pin his drug possession charge on, told the Melbourne Magistrates' Court she was "afraid" and had only made a statement about the incident last month because he "asked me not to talk to

police for all this time".

"He's a lawyer, I thought he would give me the right advice. That's the reason I didn't contact police," she told the court on Thursday.

Ms Brandman, who met Mr Lennon as a client during her divorce, denied planting drugs on him as she gave evidence behind a screen.

She said the pair were sitting in Mr Lennon's Jaguar outside their friend's place at the Como apartments on July 13 when police lights flashed behind them.

"They separated us straight away and took me to one side, and I did not see Pat," she said of the police.

But she said she overheard Mr Lennon tell the officers: "I'm a lawyer, you don't have to search me."

Ms Brandman said the police replied that it was a "high drug area, we have to".

Detective Senior Constable Khuong Tran told the court he was doing patrols when he noticed a "substance affected" Mr Lennon.

"What got my attention is

he was unsteady on his feet ... he didn't have control of his head," he said.

Watching him "wobble" to the driver's side door, the detective said to his partner, "No way he's going to drive like that".

Det Tran said there was a rolled up \$20 note on the drivers' side of the Jaguar "in plain view", and Mr Lennon's shoulder bag was searched where methamphetamines were found in a "large ziplock bag".

Mr Lennon was taken to Prahran police station, where

he was charged with drug possession, trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime.

However, his trafficking and proceeds of crime charges were withdrawn by the prosecution on Thursday, with the case proceeding on the possession charge only.

Ms Brandman said she "never put any drugs in Mr Lennon's bag ... he knows this".

"The drugs were not mine, full stop. I never put any drugs in Mr Lennon's bag and as a friend I would never do such a thing," Ms Brandman said.

Mr Lennon denies the drug possession charge. The hearing continues on Friday.

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Romney to call it a day

WASHINGTON: Utah Senator Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential candidate and one of his party's staunchest critics of Donald Trump, has announced he will not seek another term in the Senate.

"I have spent my last 25 years in public service of one kind or another," the 76-year-old Romney said in a video message. "At the end of a nother

term, I'd be in my mid-eighties," he said. "Frankly, it's time for a new generation of leaders.

"They're the ones that need to make the decisions that will shape the world they will be living in," Mr Romney said.

Mr Romney, who lost the 2012 White House race to Democrat Barack Obama, was elected to the Senate from Utah in 2018. He said he would complete his term, which ends in January 2025, but would not seek re-election.

Mr Romney has been one of the leading critics of Mr Trump in the Republican Party. He was the only Republican member of the Senate to vote twice to convict the former president in impeachment trials.

Selfies our chief calling

Young Aussies prioritise capturing the perfect selfie over any other feature on their phone.

Research by PureProfile on behalf of Samsung Electronics Australia found 60 per cent of Australians aged 18-25 take selfies at least once a week compared with just 30 per cent of the general population.

In terms of smartphone features, the ability to take photos (28 per cent) topped the list followed by staying connected (27 per cent).

Other Aussies aren't far behind in the selfie stakes, with almost half of those aged 26-45 (47 per cent) taking selfies at least once a week.



Marah's mine mishap

Marah the labrador with owner Hugh Mc Mullan and Maldon CFA Captain Sean McCubbin. Picture: Rob Leeson.

Katelin Cameron

Marah the labrador is a very lucky dog after being rescued from a Goldfields mineshaft.

She had been on a walk with owner Hugh Mc Mullan and his parents on Father's Day when she fell 25m.

In 45 minutes, the Maldon CFA made a plan to rescue the lab, with the help of Bendigo Fire Station, which is Fire Rescue Victoria's high angle rescue team.

To retrieve Marah, the rescue team used a tripod to lower one of its members down into the mineshaft

and bring her back up.

"She was besotted to be out of the hole. She gave her rescuers the biggest cuddles and pets and then went to her owner, who was ecstatic to see her come back out," Captain of the Maldon CFA, Sean McCubbin said.

Marah's owners were

distressed about their beloved lab when he arrived, but Captain McCubbin reassured the family everything would be all right.

"A husband, wife, and son going for a walk, what better outcome on Father's Day than having your dog rescued," he said.

Captain McCubbin said the family did the right thing by calling for rescue services, as saving Marah themselves was beyond their capabilities. "I would strongly urge people, and especially people around the Goldfields, do not enter the mineshafts" he said.

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