



Kane Phillips, as a teen, and (below) a changed man.

'Devil's lure took all I had'

BRUCE McDOUGALL

KANE Phillips' nightmare love affair with ice started when he was just 18.

It came after his life spiralled out of control years earlier while he was still at school. As a young teen he was drinking heavily and smoking pot to ease feelings of anxiety and depression.

By the time he became hooked on crystal meth he was smoking the drug all day, every day. "Ice stripped me of everything including my family — I didn't know who I was anymore," Kane told The Saturday Telegraph. "I lost heaps of jobs. I had too much anxiety and I couldn't function."

A run-in with police saved his life. Kane was referred by court order to The Glen rehabilitation centre on the Central Coast. Twelve months later he has become a role model for others. The now 23-year-old has held

down a full-time job for nine months.



KIDS LOST IN ICE AGE

27mm x 52.92mm

4000 students try drug in city's west

EXCLUSIVE
BRUCE McDOUGALL

THE use of ice by children as young as 14 has tripled as a wave of extreme violence caused by the crystal methamphetamine epidemic tears families apart.

Teens able to buy hits for just \$5 are "trashing themselves", stretching rehabilitation services to the brink.

Community workers have told The Saturday Telegraph terrified mums beaten up by their meth-crazed children have been forced to form self-help groups to seek therapy.

Mums "overwhelmed" by family violence in Sydney's southwestern suburbs are being offered solace by the Youth Off The Streets organisation.

Drug and alcohol experts say the modern scourge is producing more overdoses, psychosis and extreme violence due to the purity and potency of the highly addictive drug.

According to the latest available data the proportion of Australians aged 14-19 using crystal meth has increased threefold as treatment centres report long waiting lists of young people desperate for help.

Executive director of the drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation program, We Help Ourselves, Garth Popple said 80 per cent of the cases he saw now involved methamphetamine.

"Because of that the flow of people into our services has quadrupled — they are crashing and burning earlier," he said.

"For every one person using ice usually 10 family members will be affected, but there is no new money for residential treatment."

We Help Ourselves runs 130 beds at its Lilyfield complex providing treatment and prevention programs with an average stay of three to four months. We could increase

that to 150 beds which would enable us to take an extra 80 to 100 residents," Mr Popple said.

"Our message is that treatment works and there is recovery beyond ice."

Youth off the Streets founder Father Chris Riley said families were the "biggest casualties" from assaults by ice-affected youngsters across a swath of Sydney suburbs.

"There is one suburb in which a whole community has been torn apart and about 20 mums formed their own (self help) group because of the violence," he said.

"They were being beaten up by their sons — ice had taken over."

"This is a terrible drug that is destroying families and it is getting more prevalent, the Hunter Valley has the highest rate of children beating parents up."

Ice destroyed Gillian's life, but the worst part of the young mum's horrific 20-year battle with crystal meth has been the toll on her kids.

"I have three children from 6-19 (and) they live in the pain," Gillian, who is now making progress recovering in a residential rehabilitation centre in Sydney's inner west, said.

To Lauren, another young mum recovering in the We Help Ourselves centre at Lilyfield ice is "the devil's drug" — cheap and easy to get in a market flooded with it.

"I couldn't get enough of it and the more I had the more I wanted," she said.

"Ice stops you from thinking about the consequences. You just don't care and when I looked into my daughter's eye's I couldn't stop it even for her. It had me."

In-residence services providing a safe haven and treatment for the most serious cases say they are stretched to the limit.

Joe Coyte, chief executive of The Glen Centre on the Central Coast said the average age of users signed into its rehab programs was getting



“For every one person using ice usually 10 family members will be affected”

Rehab program director Garth Popple

“I couldn't get enough of it and the more I had the more I wanted”

Recovering ice addict Lauren

Sarah Etter, manager of the We Help Ourselves New Beginnings women's program, works with some recovering ice addicts at the Lilyfield centre. Picture: Jonathan Ng

younger. "It is the nature of the drugs that makes people get sicker earlier because of the purity and potency of them," he said.

"For many of our clients it (drug use) stems from their childhood — they start young."

The Glen Centre currently

has more than 100 applications to enter the program each month but space for only five to ten. Salvation Army rehab centres are also stretched with waiting lists.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced a \$300 million strategy to tackle ice addiction after the National

Ice Taskforce found more than 200,000 Australians had used the drug. But those at the coalface say the money has been slow to arrive.

Associate Professor Nicole Lee of the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University said more resources were need for treatment and

Horribly, we are now seeing the effects of ice on kids as young as 14
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prevention programs. "We have seen huge increases (in demand) for treatment and emergency

services," she said. Father Chris Riley called for "voluntary" lockup facilities for the most seriously affected ice

users where they could receive professional help.

"It would not be a sentence and they (addicts) would have a choice about going into the locked facility," he said.

"We need a new approach to rehab so that instead of building more jails the money is better used on therapeutic

places." In Western Sydney around 4000 high school students from 12 to 17 are estimated to have tried ice, according to frontline drug and alcohol support services working with all age groups to overcome addiction.

A spokesman for Health Minister Sussan Ley said

\$281.1 million had been committed to the fight against the ice epidemic since July this year. Most of the money was being distributed through 31 primary health networks for drug and alcohol treatment service. "It is vital that the local needs be properly assessed," she said.

Lost votes sway lead in Orange

MILES GODFREY

THE Shooters, Fishers and Farmers have edged marginally back ahead of the Nationals in the Orange by-election after a "lost" bundle of votes was discovered at the count.

But a result for the knife-edge ballot will not be formally declared until at least Monday morning — more than a week after the central west electorate went to the polls — and even then a recount is being demanded, potentially prolonging the wait further.

The Nationals formally lodged a recount request last night, with state party director Nathan Quigley saying it was necessary "for the sake of certainty".

Their candidate, Scott Barrett had nudged in front of the Shooters' Philip Donato late on Thursday and appeared set to snatch an unlikely victory, having been behind most of the week.

But Mr Donato jumped back ahead by 55 votes yesterday after an extra bundle of votes was discovered.

The votes had been misplaced in a pile of votes which were attributed to an independent candidate.

Count staff realised the error only because they keep track of the number of bundled, used ballot papers.



Scott Barrett just in front.

Beacon to the rescue

A PILOT who survived a helicopter crash can thank a cutting-edge distress beacon for his swift rescue yesterday.

The single-engine chopper crashed into trees in a remote area near Queensland's Daintree Rainforest about noon. The pilot, in his 40s and the sole occupant, suffered a moderate head injury.

A search and rescue spokesman said the distress beacon — which can pinpoint a pilot's exact position — helped search teams find him quickly and winch him to safety.

Heal hammered over \$750,000 'scam' in full-court press

LIAM WALSH

AUSTRALIAN basketball great Shane Heal yesterday faced court accused of a \$750,000 scam while in charge of three companies.

Heal, 46, was hit with three charges of fraud relating to his own private business for

The four-time Olympian appeared in Brisbane Magistrates Court, where he was bailed to reappear next month.

Heal, known for his distinctive bleached blond hair, did not enter a plea to the charges, which followed an Australian Securities and Investments Commission investigation into his conduct as a sole director of

gained three benefits of \$250,000, each from an investor in each of the companies: Shyfox, CreSive Constructions and 23 Investments.

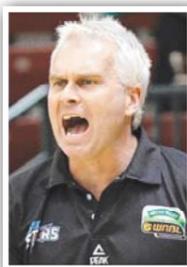
"I faced court today on charges relating to allegations from almost eight years ago," Heal said. "ASIC have brought these charges forward. I am not guilty and will set about

will have public interest but I ask for some privacy and an understanding that, on my lawyers' advice, I can't talk about specific details. My side of the story will eventually come out."

Heal has been one of the biggest names in Australian basketball since making his National Basketball League

Nicknamed "Hammer", he was renowned for his shooting prowess, which took him all the way to the pinnacle of the game in the NBA, where he played for the Minnesota Timberwolves and the San Antonio Spurs. He also starred for the Australian Boomers.

He has also coached in the NBL, WNBL and New Zealand



PM'S TRADE TIRADE

MALCOLM Turnbull has warned of a new wave of protectionism sweeping the globe as governments and political leaders respond to communities in revolt over falling living standards.

In a blunt assessment of a rapidly shifting political and economic landscape — especially with regard to self-confessed protectionist US President-elect Donald Trump's shock win last week — the Prime Minister will tell an APEC summit in Peru today that governments must not put up trade barriers and need to keep their faith



Poetic justice in 'Love Me Tinder' scandal

MONIQUE HORE

AN Australian Taxation Office worker has sensationally resigned after bragging that he could delete a tax debt for a woman he met on popular dating app Tinder.

A source said the worker quit after an internal investi-

bureaucrat, who is believed to have worked at a Victorian office, allegedly breached protocols by accessing the woman's private tax file.

The Daily Telegraph understands it prompted the ATO to pen a poetic warning for its staff.

"An ATO employee accessed the records of a love

"They bragged to a colleague that they could wipe the tax debt, for a lovely young soul they had just met.

"To do the right thing is best by a mile, so you don't end up the subject of an (investigation) case file."

The poem was posted on the ATO's intranet and headlined: "Think with your head

The poem was followed by a more serious note from the ATO's assistant commissioner for fraud prevention, Steve Ramsey, who said the ATO risked its reputation if staff waived debts for friends or acquaintances.

An ATO spokeswoman refused to comment on claims two other workers had