PUBTEST FAIL?, Financial services giant slammed over compensation scheme PAGE2

Calling out those most popular SLIVHA NAME?



PAGES

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TRADES TRADES The cat's out of the bag

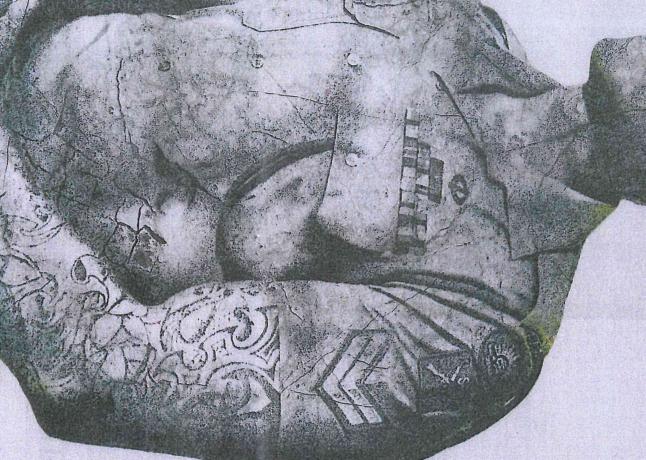
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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

denies allegations soldier is under made against him. Roberts-Smith police investigation. the former SAS the Prime Minister about his past, and have been raised serious questions public figures. But has confirmed most respected is one of Australia's the Year, business recipient, Father of health advocate Ben Roberts-Smith eader and mental Victoria Cross

Nick McKenzie David Wroe **Chris Masters** PAGES 8-10



teen Ce

Joe Hinchliffe

Police have arrested 14 people including a 14-year-old boy and seized stolen cars and a military assault rifle following a "terrifying" spree of carjackings and aggravated robberies across Melbourne's south-eastern

Three have been charged with a string of offences, including armed robbery, aggravated carjacking and possession of a prohibited weapon, handling stolen goods and unlicensed driving.

Police expect to make more arrests and

ages have

Pannell said want to speak

day and we do expect further arrests early next week," he said yesterday afternoon.

He also indicated more charges would be laid against those already arrested.

Victoria Police said its investigators re-

estigators re-a black Holden

Continued Page 4

SPECIAL 56-PAGE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

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oday Showers, chance of thunderstorm omorrow Shower or two fonday Possible early shower

ODDSPOTA man has been charged with walking a pig on a busy street in Norwich - without a lead. Police were called to Prince of Wales Road, where they found the pig "running around" with a dog, which bit one of the officers. The animals' owner has been charged with having an out-of-control dog and an untethered pig.

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CRUISE

BUSINESS
Back in Oz, Murdoch may be plotting his next move JOHN MCDULING

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life. Why are so many questions being a leading figure in Australian public David Wroe and Chris Masters report. asked about his past? Nick McKenzie award, Ben Roberts-Smith has become A recipient of the ultimate bravery

When Malcolm Turnbull gave a speech four months ago about the struggle some veterans faced readjusting to civilian life, it was hard to ignore the man towering behind him in the Great Hall of

Hands clasped and head slightly bowed, Australia's most decorated Afghanistan veteran, Ben Roberts-Smith, stood on stage with the Prime Minister as a living testament to success after the military.

Having received a Victoria Cross for bravery during an assault on the Afghan village of Tizak in 2010 – an award that was preceded by a Medal for Gallantry and followed by a Commendation for Distinguished Service – Roberts-Smith was in the midst of a seemingly successful transition into comorate life midst of a seemingly successitransition into corporate life.

The transformation from

battlefield to boardroom was significant. For 10 years, Roberts-Smith had served with Australia's Special Air Service Regiment, a unit of elite soldiers who are mostly not allowed to speak about their work.

Receiving the Commonwealth's

ultimate bravery award made Roberts-Smith an instant celebrity. His agent began charging thousands to corporate clients to hear not only from "the most decorated soldier in the Commonwealth" but a man who had also been named "Australian Father of the Year".

He was appointed chairman of the Australia Day Council, and the deputy chairman of the Prime Minister's Defence mental health

employment committee. He became the public face of a campaign against one-punch violence and the Stay Kind campaign, which urges Australians to look after vulnerable committee and veterans'

award ceremony produced an evocative image of the 196-centimetre tall warrior gently comforting a tearful Batty.

The photograph fitted his public ethos, which was to value "moral violence campaigner Rosie Batty as an Australian of the Year. The He helped select domestic

courage" above physical prowess and "cherish your family every

single day".

But as he stood behind Turnbull at a veterans' function at Parliament House on March 28, serious doubts about his conduct were being discussed in senior Defence circles.

reconciling disturbing allegations about Roberts-Smith's behaviour in Afghanistan and back home with the Among the assembled generals and politicians in the Great Hall that night were some who had trouble

Over almost a year, The Age has interviewed dozens of veterans, officials and people with knowledge of Roberts-Smith's personal conduct, including decorated soldiers who served alongside him. Their claims include bullying, intimidation and his involvement in small SAS teams suspected of the abuse of unarmed civilians and the use of force that goes well beyond what is acceptable in the theatre of MAGEDI AGOS BA

war. Indeed, some of the most important people in the room that night knew of the allegations.
At the VIP table sat the unflappable Chief of Army and special forces veteran Lieutenant-General Angus Campbell. Two years earlier, Campbell had commissioned the Inspector-General of the Defence Force to penetrating inquiry in the recent history of Australia's military. pegin an inquiry into the nation's special forces – the most

it was clear to an inner circle in
Defence that disturbing rumours
about small SAS patrol teams typically consisting of five to six men
including a patrol commander and
deputy commander - involved **Disturbing rumours**By the time of the Great Hall event, serious allegations about their conduct in Afghanistan.

The patrols under scrutiny featured Roberts-Smith as a key player, either as a deputy or lead patrol commander. Those making the allegations were from the SAS itself and had served alongside Roberts-Smith's patrols in Afghanistan

Afghanistan.
The allegations concerned the patrols' treatment of detainees or unarmed Afghans. They included claims that the patrols may have failed to report accurately incidents in which Afghans had been acts of brutality use of force,

perpetrated against unarmed men. SAS veterans have also alleged to The Age that Roberts-Smith bullied and intimidated fellow soldiers, including two junior operators who made internal complaints about the impact of his conduct on their mental health.

Witnesses allege one was punched in the head by an angry Roberts-Smith after a battlefield

bungle.
But it wasn't only RobertsSmith's conduct as an SAS operator
that would prompt scrutiny. That
evening at the Great Hall would
result in further allegations that suggest he was struggling with the difficult task of living up to all that was expected of him.

Sitting on the same VIP table as Lieutenant-General Campbell, between ADF deputy chief Vice-

Smith had brought as his guest, and whom he had introduced to military figures earlier that day as a client of his employer, Channel Seven. Admiral Ray Griggs and Veterans' Affairs Minister Darren Chester, was a female lawyer whom Roberts-Smith had brought as his guest, and

former Australian Army corporal had been appointed general manager of the TV network's Queensland operations by media tycoon Kerry Stokes. But the woman wasn't a Channel Seven client. Instead, Roberts-Smith was in the midst of a partner of the contest of the co After completing a master's of siness administration in 2016, the

in the midst of an extramarital relationship with the woman.
Sources at the event questioned why Roberts-Smith risked revealing that he was having an affair by taking his mistress to a high-profile function where, beyond the Prime Minister, he was the most prominent guest. But, far more concerningly, senior Defence officials later learnt of allegations she raised with police about what

intimidation had happened later that night at the Hotel Realm in Canberra: an alleged act of domestic violence and

Yesterday Roberts-Smith issued a denial of the allegations, calling them a "catalogue of lies".

Risking all
Shortly after the guns fell silent at
Tizak in 2010, the sneakers Ben
Roberts-Smith wore during the
famous battle were photographed.
The white shoes are splattered with
blood. They evoke the image of a
man racing towards danger, risking

His Victoria Cross citation puts this image in words, describing an "extreme devotion to duty" paired with "a total disregard for his own safety" as Roberts-Smith "stormed the country of the country of

the enemy position killing the ...
machine gunners".

During his deployments to
Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010,
Roberts-Smith was deputy
commander of a small SAS patrol.

In his last overseas deployment, prior to leaving the army in 2013, he was appointed patrol commander.

The Age has confirmed by speaking to multiple special forces insiders that among the allegations made to

the Inspector-General's inquiry is that patrols he helped lead brutally mistreated unarmed Afghans.

Four Defence insiders have alleged that they observed patrols under Roberts-Smith's direct or

deputy leadership severely mistreat unarmed Afghans on four occasions. A member of Roberts-Smith's 2009 patrol allegedly encouraged a more junior trooper to execute a detainee – a suspected militant – and was later overheard boasting about it. The Age has obtained a photo of the dead man and two witness accounts describing the circumstances in which the Afghan died

died.
One insider, an experienced SAS soldier, has vividly described intervening to stop Roberts-Smith bashing an unarmed Afghan whom

VETERANS'S

Roberts-Smith fails in move to stop

confidentiality against federal law concerning an inquiry into him.
Prime Minister Malcolm
Turnbull said yesterday he was aware of a police investigation into a domestic violence allegation against Mr Roberts-Smith, declining to comment on specifics but declaring that Australia has "zero tolerance"

investigation into Mr KUDEL WO-Smith's conduct while serving in Afghanistan with the elite Special Air Service Regiment and

accusations relating to an incident in Canberra, the Prime Minister said a police inquiry was under way.

"I am aware of the allegations, complaints have been made to police and they will be dealt with appropriately," Mr Turnbull said yesterday.

He condemned any violence against women, adding that disrespect towards women "is how richard to the prime of the prime of

violence against women begins".
Mr Roberts-Smith, who is one of just three living recipients of the Victoria Cross issued an emphatic

witnesses will categorically demonstrate the falsity" of all the

allegations. Based on interviews with

Dana McCauley **Fergus Hunter**

Decorated Australian war hero Ben Roberts-Smith has failed in a bid for an injunction against Fairfax Media to prevent publication in today's Age and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers of detailed allegations concerning the former corporal's heboriour.

behaviour.
Mr Roberts-Smith took action
last night in the Federal Court,
arguing there had been a breach of

for violence against women.
Responding to an Age
investigation into Mr Roberts-

denial of the allegations, labelling them a "catalogue of lies". He said he would vigorously defend himself against the "malicious" claims.

"I unequivocally deny any physical abuse of any woman at any time ever, and I have not at any stage been interviewed by police about any purported complaint by any woman," he said.

He said he was confident "direct trittees of a said the was confident."

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two patrol commanders were seeking to arrest in 2010. The bearded man had frozen in the foetal position when Roberts-Smith entered the room, wearing

The insider describes Roberts-Smith unexpectedly attacking the man, and pummelling him in the face with his fists and in the stomach with his knees. "RS [Roberts-Smith] repeatedly smashed this guy in the cheek and kneed him in the guts. I went, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa. Back off mate. We have this under control.'

"The fella's face immediately blew up. We stepped back and gave the fella some space. We then arrested him."

Two alleged incidents have been separately recounted by other SAS members and involve men under the control of a patrol being led by Roberts-Smith. Both involve the alleged mistreatment of Afghan men who witnesses claim were posing no threat to Australian soldiers and could have been

arrested without the use of force.
One of the men harmed was in
custody and posing no threat at all
when he was allegedly badly

Sources from inside the SAS say this alleged mistreatment was not only unnecessary but potentially counterproductive. An essential

this guy in the cheek. repeatedly smashed 'RS [Roberts-Smith]

SAS insider

purpose of the Afghanistan mission was the protection of the local population and the generation of confidence in the coalition and

government forces.
The sources also concede that,
while the allegations caused deep
concern, and were discussed
informally and sometimes raised

publication of Age's story

career as a corporate and community leader and mental health champion, some of his SAS colleagues were asking if the decorated warrior might have shirked scrutiny because less experienced soldiers were worried chort challenging the with more senior SAS soldiers, they were not immediately reported to senior command in Canberra.

Keeping secrets is part of being in the SAS. Yet by late 2012 and early 2013, as Roberts-Smith was preparing to embark on his new career as a corporate and

about challenging him.

Much of the concern held by senior military officers about the cultural problems within the SAS have involved keeping quiet about behaviours that needed confronting. A report in March 2016 by then Special Operations commander Major-General Jeff Sengelman described a culture of impunity that may have normalised allegedly disturbing behaviour. Sengelman's report also identified serious "governance and behavioural"

in the regiment were worried that Roberts-Smith's apparent bullying meant some in his patrol were scared to question battlefield incidents or those which allegedly occurred back at base or in training. The two patrol commanders identify that the first time Roberts-Smith came to attention for alleged bullying inside the SAS was in 2006, during his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Following a hair-raising battle early in the deployment, Roberts-Smith fell out with two members of a six-man patrol, in part over whether it was necessary to kill an Afghan who had earlier walked past the patrol's observation post.

One of the two patrol members later insisted to colleagues the Afghan appeared to be an unarmed teenager whose death could have been avoided

But it was a perilous circumstance and a tough call apparently made in the fog of war. Roberts-Smith's version of events was backed by other patrol

a chance he might have seen the observation post and planned to report it to the Taliban, who could then attack. Roberts-Smith and other patrol members also said the male was armed with a smoke grenade, which exploded after he The young male was presumed to be a "spotter". This meant there was

The conflicting accounts are mirrored in official reports relayed by the patrol to senior officers and seen by *The Age*. Some post-incident reports describe an anti-coalition militant posing a "threat". Some reports go further, falsely stating the dead male was armed with an

prepare their weapons.

Multiple sources contend
Roberts-Smith followed up this
critique with repeated bullying of
the smaller and quieter of the two
patrol members, Trooper M. (The
Age cannot name a serving SAS
soldier but has confirmed he is still
serving and has been promoted to
patrol commander.)

More then continued to

lapses" and ultimately helped spark the Inspector-General's inquiry. A record of a discussion between two long-serving SAS patrol commanders, obtained by *The Age*, reveals some experienced soldiers

Roberts-Smith accused the two patrol members critical of his actions of cowardice and failing to

More than one witness claims to have overheard Roberts-Smith threatening to harm Trooper M, an alleged threat Trooper M relayed to colleagues. The two patrol commanders alleged "years of bullying that RS [Roberts-Smith] but him through" and which bullying that RS [Roberts-Sr put him through" and which



Ben Roberts-Smith with domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty.

The Age also reported that Mr Roberts-Smith had an extramarital relationship with a female lawyer who accused him of an alleged act of domestic violence

unproven allegations.

Ms Batty, who met the Victoria Cross winner when the Australia Day Council he led selected her as Australian of the Year in 2015, said he had always behaved in a kind and caring manner in her presence.

She said the veteran was "a target

being considered by an inquiry into SAS conduct.

of unarmed Afghans The allegations ar

patrols accused of bullying, intimidation and the mistreatment

at the Hotel Realm in Canberra this year.
Former Australian of the Year and domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty voiced her support for Mr Roberts-Smith, warning against a rush to tear down heroes through

veterans, officials and people familiar with Mr Roberts-Smith's personal conduct, *The Age* detailed his involvement in small SAS

impacted his mental health. A bullying complaint against Roberts-Smith was ultimately lodged inside the SAS by Trooper M, which led to

Commended for leadership
Roberts-Smith's promotion to patrol
commander left him responsible for
mentoring junior soldiers under his
command. It was an appointment he
relished, a realisation of leadership
ambitions. Some other SAS soldiers
were also pleased, considering
Roberts-Smith a fierce and impressive soldier now able to pass on his knowledge to less experienced

But not all felt that way. Concerns inside the SAS about the treatment of the least-experienced member of Roberts-Smith's patrol, Trooper J, were raised in mid-2012, just prior to deployment to Afghanistan.

During a training exercise in

During a training exercise in Perth involving the mock capture of an Afghan prisoner, three SAS soldiers witnessed Roberts-Smith instruct Trooper J to shoot the

"RS grabbed [Trooper J] by the shoulder and said, 'F-ing kill him, f-ing kill him,'" an SAS soldier who claims to have witnessed the event The soldier alleges Trooper J responded by half-heartedly simulating a mock execution ("He went bang' as a joke," recalls a witness).

the order said that two patrol commanders informally challenged Roberts-Smith, telling him to "pull your head in". This witness alleges that Robert-Smith then said, "You good with that?" The witnesses who observed

After arriving in Afghanistan in July 2012, the mentoring of Trooper J generated further controversy when a mission on July 15 to the Chora Valley to flush out the Taliban turned ugly, and one patrol member was nearly shot by a second SAS patrol in a near fatal "friendly fire" buncle

of breaching protocol by firing his weapon in response and not adhering to Roberts-Smith's orders. He was formally investigated, placed on administrative duties with another patrol and soon after left the bungle.
Trooper J wasn't responsible for
the friendly fire but he was accused

army.

According to statements later submitted to senior Defence officials, Roberts-Smith ran his own, off-the-books disciplinary process. Multiple witnesses allege that Roberts-Smith castigated the trooper in front of his patrol, ordering Trooper J to stand up and then punching him in the head.

A further threat from Roberts-Smith was allegedly made several months later: if the trooper's account about the incident and aftermath was not consistent with his version, Roberts-Smith would report him to the International Criminal Court at The Hague for firing in the vicinity of civilians.

The treatment of Trooper J by Roberts-Smith concerned several experienced patrol commanders, who were also troubled about other aspects of Roberts-Smith's mentoring and leadership in 2012. The most pressing issue being discussed among a small number of senior SAS soldiers involved his patrol's involvement in an alleged assault on an unparmed A febrar

sault on an unarmed Afghan. Those with concerns were

Continued Page 10

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Benea: lauded solo lier's bravery

rom Page 9

Smith's 2012 service as it awarded him a Commendation for Distinguished Service, praising his exemplary "mentoring... of his exemplary "mentoring...of patrol and less experienced surprised and angered, therefore, when Defence in 2014 released a

Three patrol commanders, who are still serving with the regiment and who have also been recognised for their service in Afghanistan, signed a complaint written by one of the trio, Sergeant L. The complaint urged senior officers to

investigate Roberts-Smith's mentoring, leadership and treatment of Trooper J.

"As SAS soldiers, we are responsible for accurate reporting and honesty, in the field and in camp. This citation is a

contradiction of those values," the complaint said.

For two years, the complaint went nowhere. But it is one of many documents handed to the

For his part, Roberts-Smith traces the complaints about his behaviour to the awarding of the VC in 2011. His forceful, driven personality – one shared by many in the regiment –

When queried about this last year, he said: "I am hard, I get that, but there is no one I beat up harder than myself. You are supposed to be better. If not, you should not be there. Because if you make a

mistake, someone is going to die."
His supporters insist the allegations stem from envy, most particularly from disgruntled veterans. Roberts-Smith's defamation lawyer also blames sensationalist journalists for seeking to bring down a war hero through a

"smear campaign".
Ross Coulthart – a former TV

investigative journalist who is now a public relations consultant for a firm, Cato and Clegg – is working closely with Roberts-Smith and his lawyer on his own investigation into *The*

Age's reporting.
Coulthart has interviewed SAS soldiers close to Roberts-Smith and is privately insisting to people linked to Channel Seven there is no evidence of any wrongdoing.
However, he and the PR firm's Sue Cato have declined to share their findings. Publicly, Coulthart refuses even to say who he is working for.
Roberts-Smith has previously

decried his critics as hypocrites, saying: "The bullying is what they do to me. Bullies are cowards. They stay in the shadows. This is about group cowardice. I don't like bullies. I am

sick of it."

He has been unequivocal he has no questions to answer in respect of any of his actions in Afghanistan.

"I've been under the microscope for the last six years and, you know what, my record is spotless," he said in a newspaper interview when questions about his conduct in Afghanistan first emerged publicly

questions about his conduct in Afghanistan first emerged publicly in October 2017.

But the argument that critical accounts of Roberts-Smith amount to tall-poppy syndrome sits uneasily with the testimony of many who



have served in the SAS, including in Afghanistan. Some sources note that the reputations of that conflict's other Victoria Cross recipients, Mark Donaldson and Dan Keighran (a VC was also awarded posthumously to Commando Corporal Cameron Baird), have faced no such challenges.

Most significantly, the allegations about Roberts-Smith and his patrols have, according to regiment sources, been made under oath before the Inspector-General – a step for those witnesses that is well beyond simply muttering darkly to colleagues and iournalists

Roberts-Smith has also been pushing back, apparently aiming to paint those making allegations about him as disgruntled liars.

In 2017, defamation lawyer Mark O'Brien, who is working for Roberts-Smith, separately wrote to the two soldiers who were members of Roberts-Smith's patrol in 2006 and who had expressed serious misgivings about his conduct.

The lawyer accused the two veterans of colluding to concoct false allegations. Roberts-Smith sent a letter himself to a third SAS

veteran, also threatening litigation

Credibility attacked
Attention then shifted to a fourth
SAS Afghanistan veteran, Sergeant
L. He ha written the 2014 complaint
that urged an investigation of
Roberts-Smith's Commendation for
Distinguished Service and which was
signed by two other patrol

On October 18, 2017, in a letter sent to Fairfax Media, Roberts-Smith's defamation lawyer attacked the credibility of Sergeant L, accusing him of smuggling weapons into Afghanistan in 2012. (The two other patrol commanders who signed the 2014 complaint were not mentioned

By now, more missives attacking Sergeant L were also circulating, although who was responsible for

these remains a mystery.
On October 20, 2017, The
Australian newspaper received an
anonymous email. The Age has linked
this email to a Queensland
photographer, Nathan Richter, but
he has said he was just acting as a
middleman and refuses to say who
wrote and sent it.
This email repeated the historical
gun smuggling claim and added
some dramatic detail. It claimed

Sergeant L was at grave risk of gunning down civilians in Perth. The baseless massacre allegation was also sent to Australian Federal Police in an apparent attempt to get police

you know what, my Tve been under the microscope for the last six years and, record is spotless.

to raid Sergeant L. Days later, they did so, finding none of the weapons the mystery writer had promised would be located.

Six months later, another

mysterious writer emerged.
In April, the female lawyer
Roberts-Smith had weeks earlier
taken as his guest to the Great Hall of
Parliament House also received an

Canberra sources say the lawyer was alleging Roberts-Smith had subjected her to an act of domestic violence and intimidation in the control of the control o hours after the Great Ha late March.
According to senior s It was from a "Danielle Kennedy" and claimed to have been sent on behalf of Roberts-Smith. By then, ce and intimidation in the after the Great Hall event in

Canberra, a relative of the woman complained about the alleged incident to a politician, who alerted a more senior colleague, who in turn sources in

> been drinking at the event, and as it ended, alleges Roberts-Smith appeared angry at her behaviour, worried it had exposed his affair to the military's top brass. alerted Defence officials. Later, the alleged victim told police of her claims. Police have been told she ha

embarrassment. Police have been told that by the time the pair arrived back at the Realm Hotel, Roberts-Smith was allegedly furious and she was subjected to an act of domestic She stumbled and fell down some stairs at Parliament House as she left the event, causing further embarrassment. Police have been

(The Age has decided not to name the lawyer due to the nature of her allegations. Defence and political figures who have been told of the allegations have said that once they learnt she had gone to police, they

took no further action.)

Police also have details of multiple phone and email accounts the married Roberts-Smith used to conduct the liaison prior to it ending on April 6, when the lawyer disclosed the affair to his wife.

On April 22, the lawyer received the email from "Danielle Kennedy", who claimed to "represent Mr Roberts-Smith" and be acting on his "instructions." The Age could not locate any lawyer by the name of "Danielle Kennedy". The photo used in the email appears to have been stolen by someone from the internet. It is of Anne Whelford, an administrator at Lincoln University is Cheirtohauch.

University was unaware of the use of Anne Whelford's photograph, as was she, and neither party sanctions its use in this way."

The use of the picture "is a matter which should be dealt with by the police", the statement said.

The woman at the centre of allegations declined to comment. administrator at Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand.

After a university spokesman was supplied by *The Age* with a copy of the "Danielle Kennedy" email, he sent a statement saying: "Lincoln University was unaware of the use of

Roberts-Smith has also declined requests from *The Age* to be interviewed, or to answer questions about any knowledge he might have of "Danielle Kennedy", or why a stolen photo was used, or to give his version of events.

It is understood that after he received questions, he told his public relations advisers that no affair had ever occurred (a claim undermined by copious evidence) and that the alleged domestic violence and invention. And on Wednesday this week – six days after he was alerted that *The Age* knew of the allegations reported to police as well as the mysterious "Danielle Kennedy" – Roberts-Smith contacted a Queensland police station, claiming to be a victim of stalking by the a malicious

In respect of the claims made by SAS soldiers, Roberts-Smith has also privately dismissed allegations he is a bully or that he ever assaulted or bullied a fellow soldier.

Most significantly, Roberts-Smith , Roberts-Smith nately dismisses

Afghanistan. He recently retained a top Sydney barrister with expertise in military inquiries, Arthur Moses, privately and passionately dismisse all allegations he has ever breached the laws of armed conflict in

In his recent public appearances, Roberts-Smith appears to have sought opportunities to burnish his

He recently appeared on a Channel Seven tourism and lifestyle program to highlight his family values – "family is the most valuable thing" – and his passion for supporting soldiers struggling with mental health problems.

Not a shred of evidence'
In June, yet another mysterious
letter writer was at work. A former
member of Roberts-Smith's patrol
received a letter from an anonymous
source warning that he should
withdraw what the letter described
as false information given to the
Inspector-General, or risk having
adverse information about his own
activities exposed.
The patrol member immediately
reported the letter to the SAS
Commanding Officer, who relayed it
to the Inspector-General The
Inspector-General does not comment
on ongoing investigations.

on ongoing investigations.

But the patrol member has told colleagues he is not scared by the

threat.

Roberts-Smith's supporters
privately insist the Inspector-General
will clear him of any wrongdoing and
there is not a "shred" of evidence that
suggests otherwise. Roberts-Smith's
supporters also say that the famous
soldier is yet to give his version of
events. But SAS insiders aware of
some of the adverse allegations about
Roberts-Smith or the conduct of his
patrols say credible evidence has
already been placed on record and on

before he became supersized by expectation, responsibility and pride in the spirit of the Anzacs. After two years of investigation, and having interviewed 200 witnesses on oath, the Inspector-General is expected to finalise his report in the coming Questions have dogged Ben Roberts-Smith from a time well