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- Page 2 -

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CAVEAT - The Information Contained Herein Is Not Evidence And Is Intended To Provide A Basis For Further Consideration Or Investigation.

# **PROFILE OF**

Nicola GOBBO (



VS - The Age, Saturday October 11, 2008

ADDRESS:

St, Port Melbourne

MNI: 84609994

IBR: CNI:

DNA Status: Interstate:

LICENCE NO:

**VEHICLES:** 

2007 Merc Benz SLK350 Rdstr Black

Acquired on 30/10/08

MOBILE/S:

phone to call her:

now on her old SIM card 04	06-09-08. phone. HS given with and capabilities.
	Current mobile number from 2004 onwards – Optus. PIN code to HS Optus account = Given on 16/04/08.

Landline:

WARNINGS / INTEREST FLAGS

PARTICULARS		
HEIGHT	175cm	
BUILD	Slim/Medium	
COMPLEXION	Fair	
HAIR COLOUR	Blonde	
EYE COLOUR	Blue	
ETHNIC APPEARANCE	Caucasian	
TATTOOS	U/K	

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Desc	rip	tion

Description	
02-06-08	HS description of herself;
	<u>VIRGO</u> - The Perfectionist
	Dominant in relationships. Conservative.
	Always wants the last word
	Argumentative. Worries. Very smart.
	Dislikes noise and chaos.
	Eager. Hardworking. Loyal. Beautiful.
	Easy to talk to. Hard to please.
	Harsh. Practical and very fussy.
	Often shy Pessimistic.

## Background

When HS meets SDU puts a squiggle in diary.

## Family Background

- HS talks about her family history. She is the second youngest.
- · Her and Kathryn to Dad's second wife.
- First older two to Dad's first wife
- GOBBO's father died when she was in year 12. Her mother is still alive. She has a sister who lives in
- Studied law at Melbourne University and did her Masters at Monash University
- Speaks Italian

Health
--------

20-09-08 HS is back up to 150mg of morphine. Her jaw is hurting again.

Seeing a physio. She is at Middle Park about to go into her new Physio man. ( Sept-08

08-09-08 HS Liver or Kidney is not functioning properly. This means more drugs for her to control same.

She has a stomach ulcer re stress.

This is aggravated by smokes, coffee and poor diet / lifestyle.

This lifestyle has been affecting her liver as well.

Coupled with the extent of time HS has been on prescription medication. Not good. She may have to take more medication. Waiting for blood tests to come back.

20-06-08 HS current medication = Morphine - Oxyconton and Depression - Endep (12 hour)

HS is taking Oxyconton morphine tablets. Up to 160mg per day. Prescribed by 09-06-08

pain management specialist.



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	Or Investigation.

16-04-08	HS Neurologist is a Dr on approx level St, East Melbourne.
08-10-07	Result of breat biopsy tests = cysts. No cancer
02-10-07	HS has booked in to have surgery on her jaw on 20-NOV-2007 at Epworth
15-09-07	HS to Epworth Hospital emergency re poor health and stomach blockage
06-09-07 a biopsy.	HS has a lump on her breast that she is worried about. Seeing GP on 04-10-07 for
30-08-07 -	Health - HS sees GP. Today. She needs a couple of months off or is heading for another stroke. She is prescribed Anti depressant drugs for first time.
28-08-07	HS sees oral surgeon. Her jaw problem is 100% stress related. She needs 3 months off to fix and reduce swelling.
01-07-07	HS booked for jaw surgery on 20-07-2007. 10 days recovery time. Her local GP is Dr Street, Melbourne
24-07-04	HS suffered a Stroke. She has a balloon device inserted in her heart over a hole (aneurism). Had operation in

## **Hobbies/Interests**

HS is an avid reader of the Jack Reacher series of books

Likes to relax by going on holidays (Bali) and reading books.

HS perfume likes are - Channel Allure or Calvin Klein Eternity

Has a personal trainer.

Follows Brisbane Lions in the AFL. Used to follow Carlton.

Favourite Artist is Celine Dion

Went to Lionel Ritchie concert in Dec 2007 with



She prefers the simple restaurant with no fuss.

They went to the Mahogany room afterwards (one of the solicitors she went out with was a member) She likes it there because no rif-raf. These solicitors are commercial soli's and she described it as a nice night out not having to talk to crooks.

## **Frequents**

Essendon to get her waxing done.



Usually last Thursday of each month.

Part owns business - Carwash is Trendz Car Wash & Cafe, 2 Military Rd, Avondale Heights (near Highpoint S/C - Mel: 27 D4) - Possibly sold her part.

Office = 530 Lonsdale St, Melbourne



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Parking = Wilson Parking - Corner Crombie Lane & Little Bourke St, Melbourne

Wheat Café = 534 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

Society Restaurant. 23 Bourke St, Melbourne ph: 96392544

'R' Bar, Port Melbourne

Press Club - Flinders and Exhibition St - before Lionel Ritchie concert.

11-09-08 'Nobo' Restaurant for dinner with some fellow solicitors

24-09-08 Lunch today at 'The Box': 189 Collins Street, Melbourne. Ph: 96630411 Present were – Colin LOVEITT (QC), Steve DRAZETIC (Soli), Mick Gatto, John Khoury and a male called John who owns Bar 20 and Daily Planet.

Sister – Kathryn:

Mum – Mary: Visits her Mum for dinner on Saturday nights.

## Travel

HS booked Bali trip for 24-06-08 to 06-07-08 (12 days) with her sister

HS to Bali for 10 days. Arrive Melbourne 7am 02-04-08. (Approx 24-03-08 to 02-04-08)

HS in Bali for 12 days - From 31-07-07 to Sun 12-08-07

She has booked a Bali trip for 11-10-08 or around that date. Going for two weeks. – Didn't go-sick

HS is still talking about going to Queensland with Mum in the second week (20-Oct-08). HS still has to organise it.

## **FUTURE**

10-06-08

09-09-08	HS confirms that she has applied for a job at Austrac re a money laundering
	analyst.

HS starts to talk about moving interstate and getting a new job. Something like ICAC lawyer.

24-07-07 HS talks about her aspirations to become a magistrate in the future after 15 years

of practicing.



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	LEAP INVOLVEMENTS				
DATE	STAT	INV	SUBD	DESCRIPTION	
16/04/08	ACT	VIC	1SM	CRIMINAL DAMAGE BY FIRE (ARSON)	
07/12/06	ACT	VIC	3PS	MAKE THREAT TO KILL	
11/07/06	ACT	VIC	1SM	OBTAIN FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE BY DECEPTI	
08/12/01	ACT	VIC	1SR	CRIMINAL DAMAGE (INTENT DAMAGE/DESTRO	
06/04/01	EXP	VIC	1SM	LOST PROPERTY	
26/06/00	ACT	VIC	1SM	THEFT	
17/04/00	ACT	VIC	1SM	CRIMINAL DAMAGE (INTENT DAMAGE/DESTRO	
29/11/93	ACT	DEF		MELBOURNE MAGISTRATES COURT	
05/09/93	ACT	VIC	ACA	BURGLARY	
04/09/93	INA	BAL		BAILED	
04/09/93	ACT	OFN	ARSDSG	ARREST	
04/09/93	ACT	CHG	ARSDSG	POSSESS CANNABIS	
04/09/93	ACT	CHG	ARSDSG	USE CANNABIS	

16/04/08 – Criminal Damage by Fire Arson to BMW HS car torched in Clarendon St 1SM whilst out to dinner with Jacque EL HAGE and Alistair Grigor (solicitor).

03/09/93 - DPCS search warrant executed on 250 Rathdowne St, Carlton on 03/09/93 where GOBBO was residing with Brian WILSON ( MNI: 904671100 and Victor VELLIOS MNI: 880329022. 'Large quantity' of drugs seized. Premises then burgled on 05/09/93. Unsolved and suspects were associates of WILSON who was trafficking from house at time.

CRIMINAL HISTORY				
Court	Date	Charge	СТ	Result
Melbourne Magistrates	29/11/93	POSSESS CANNABIS USE CANNABIS POSSESS AMPHETAMIN USE AMPHETAMINE		+ALL CHARGES WITHOUT  CONVICTION ADJOURNED FOR 12  MONTHS. DRUGS FORFEITED.  as GOBBO, NICOLA MAREE

LEAP ASSOCIATES				
NAME	DOB	DESCRIPTION	DATE RPT	
Brian WILSON		Co-offender	03/09/93	
Victor VELLIOS		Field Contact	03/09/93	

KNOWN ASSOCIATES			
HOW RELATED	NAME	ADDRESS	INTELLIGENCE
			Dad deceased Father's Death: 09 / 05 / 1990 (her HSC year) Father stroke: 26 / 04 / 1990. He never spoke again until he died Father worked for Vic Roads



HOW RELATED  SOBBO, Mary  GOBBO, Catherine  GOBBO, Catherine  ILOVISKI, Paul MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  ILOVISKI, Paul MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Was a Close Friend	KNOWN ASSOCIATES				
GOBBO, Catherine    Sister	OW RELATED	NAME	ADDRESS	INTELLIGENCE	
GOBBO, Catherine    Sister		GOBBO, Mary		Mum. Second wife of HS father.	
Phone: Mobile: Fax: Email:				FII	
Phone: Mobile: Fax: Email:  PI  MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Ardeer  Priors – Blackmail, intentionally or unlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  PI  PII  PII  PII  PII  PII  PII  PI		GOBBO. Catherine		Sister	
Mobile: Fax: Email:					
ILOVISKI, Paul  MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Ardeer  Priors – Blackmall, intentionally or unlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Pul  Pul  Pul  Pul  Pul  Pul  Pul  Pu					
ILOVISKI, Paul MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Business Partner in car wash. Licence: Priors – Blackmail, intentionally or unlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Pil Fil Fil					
ILOVISKI, Paul MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Business Partner in car wash. Licence: Priors – Blackmail, intentionally or unlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Fil				Email:	
Ardeer  Licence: Priors - Blackmall, intentionally counlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fi				PII	
MNI: 991956700  Ardeer  Licence: Priors - Blackmail, intentionally or unlawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pi	A Table - 03/03/2001, Phone park Traces Table	ILOVISKI. Paul		Business Partner in car wash.	
MNI: 991956700  Priors – Blackmail, intentionally cauniawful assault, use threatening  Close Friend  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pil  Pi			Ardeer	Licence:	
Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fi	-	MNI: 991956700			
Close Friend  Was a Close Friend  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fil  Fi				Priors – Blackmail, intentionally caus,	
Pil				umawidi assadit, use tirreatering words.	
Pil	A by Wooder I will bit 55 - Tel 102000 Septicat			Close Friend	
PII			PII	Close i fielid	
PII					
PII					
PII					
PII				Was a Close Friend	
P PII PII			PII		
PII PII			P.,		
PII PII				PII	
Pil				PII	
Pil					
PII					
				PII	

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	KN	OWN ASSOCIATES	
HOW RELATED	NAME	ADDRESS	INTELLIGENCE
			Went to Lionel Ritchie concert
	WILSON, Brian Shane MNI:	St, Carlton 08/08/05 St, Rye	Defacto in 1993 – when warrant executed in Carlton.  Priors – possess cannabis, traffick other drug, unlawful possession, possess prescribed. Licence –
Prenime Ry of Policy (Art 12 15 7 16 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	<b>VELLIOS, Victor</b> 880329022	20/08/07 – St, Preston	Field Contact - Present at Carlton address in 1993 when warrant executed.  Extensive priors
	Mick  MNI: 479939020 IBR: 1576/74 Cni: 005534440	Court, Lower Plenty Vic	Associate/friend 24/09/07 Ahmet COPUR contacts HS out of blue wanting to arrange a dinner on behalf of Gatto to talk about Faruk Orman brief. (This starts the Gatto relationship)  Elite Cranes Mick GATTO has appointed 3838 as their solicitor to handle civil cases

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	KNOWN ASSOCIATES			
HOW RELATED	NAME	ADDRESS	INTELLIGENCE	
	KARAM, Rabie MNI: 47676983	Kew	Client - 16/09/08 Priors Traffick/Possess, Burg, Crim Damage	
	DALE, Paul		Ex MOPF  HS Reports contact with Dale	
	WATERS, David John MNI: 338209428		Ex MOPF HS not representing, friend only now uses David O'DOHERTY. HS reports contact with WATERs.	
	(MARAS, Anastasios) (Marana) (		Had dinner together. Gatto bashed him last year. Told HS about BUICK and two members	
	KHOURY, John MNI: 904798908			
	KHOURY Simon @ Speedy (born MNI: 74406912		Associate	
	GERRATY, Amy Elizabeth  . MNI: Nil		Solicitor - Colleague  Talk about HIGGS and COSTEA.	
	ORMAN, Faruk ) MNI: 129938358 Cni: 104556927		Client	
	HAFNER Danny @ Darren John HAFNER MNI: 905252879		Client Still getting information from his friend who is sleeping with a surveillance operative of an unknown police agency ICR074	
		St, Templestowe Lower 3107.	Calls HS. Avoids talking to him.	

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	KNOV	VN ASSOCIATES	
HOW RELATED	NAME ADDRESS		INTELLIGENCE
	GRIGOR, Alistair (Solicitor);		Colleague
	Marc TRICARICO		Client Real Estate Agent - 04/04/08 is saying that he was because of HS. This is false and she is spreading word to put it right. HS satisfied that the 'Fox-O' that Carl Williams, Bayeh solicitor 2 and the Mokbel's supposedly have is simply fox-O'
	@ @		3838 will have dinner
	Mr Bickley		Went to movies with same last night – 3838 to provide details later in evening.
	MANNELLA, Giuseppe @ Joe MNI: 592945169		
	EL HAGE, Jacques @ JACK EL HAJJ (MNI: 769012354		
	PARISI, Joseph MNI: 865959095		3838 stated that PARISI is another person used and abused by the MOKBEL family
			ICR073 – nominated as a possible target for recruitment
	DAGHER, Myer Joseph MNI: 857509994		ICR074

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KNOWN ASSOCIATES				
HOW RELATED	NAME	ADDRESS	INTELLIGENCE	
	MENOTTI, Carmelo (Charlie) MNI: 944303308		Present at group dinners	

The Following Associates obtained from previous profile.

Name: Anthony MOKBEL MNI: 903555700
Dob

Address: In Custody
Phone: HOME BUS

Prior history: 8 pages including threat to kill; Traffick/Possess DOD; Attempt to pervert; Assaults (incl against police) and others. Is known to be involved in large scale amphetamine trafficking.
Association Type: Client

Summary: Began representing MOKBEL in Feb 2002. MOKBEL frequents Hugo Lounge, Chapel St, Sth Yarra; Tantra Lounge, Greville St, Prahran; Viper Room, Chapel St, Sth Yarra.

**Danielle McGUIRE** - Tony's girlfriend ( ) MNI: 925387983 Street, SOUTHBANK

Name: Horty MOKBEL

MNI: 119749093
Dob:
Address: 02/06/04 - ST, PRESTON, VIC. 3072
Phone: BUS

HOME

Prior history: 5 pages including OFA; Resist police; conspire to traffick DOD.
Is believed to be involved in large scale amphetamine manufacture with brother Tony.
Association Type: Client

Summary: Represents or has represented members of MOKBEL family and associates with them for dinner —.

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Name: Milad MOKBEL

Address: 30/06/05 - ST, BRUNSWICK, VIC. 3056.

Phone: MOBL

Prior History: 2 pages including drug offences and possessing proceeds of crime.

Association Type: Client

Summary: Also believed to be involved in large scale amphetamine production with brother TONY and other members of syndicate.

Photo Taken:

Name: Joseph PARISI

MNI: 865959095
Dob:

Address: 06/07/04 - ST, FAWKNER, VIC. 3060.

Phone: MOBL

BUS

Prior history: See below. Aside from one firearms possession charge in 1993 nil priors.

Association Type: Client

Summary: Charged rei. Operation 1 part of Op Kayak) along with Tony
MOKBEL and Mark LANTERI with serious offences relating to large amphetamine production. Charges since withdrawn as a result of corruption issues.

Photo Taken:

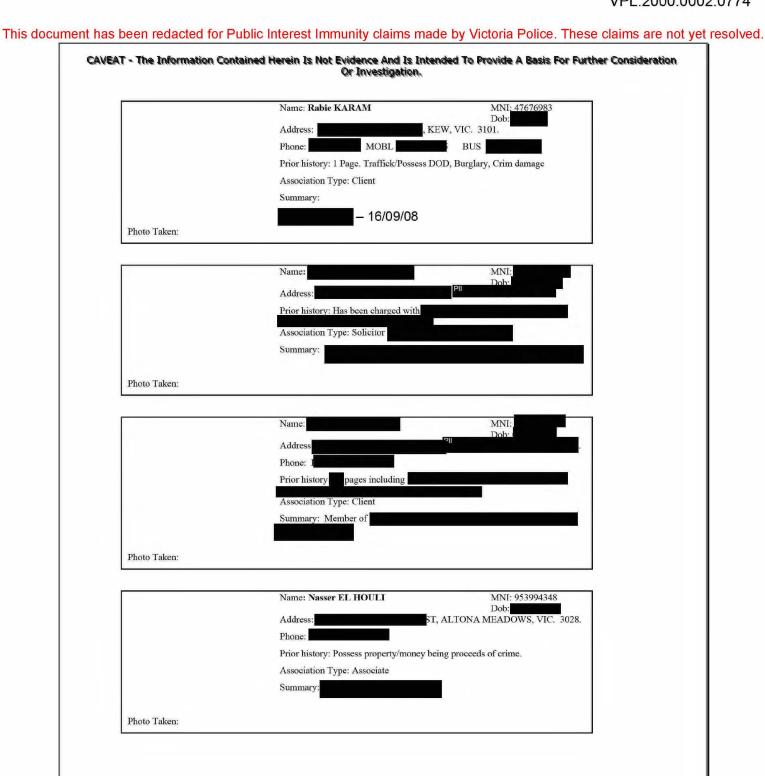
Name: Mark Anthony LANTERI

MNI: 899649028
Dob:
Address: 30/06/05 - GREENSBOROUGH, VIC.
3088.
Phone: (Changes numbers regularly)

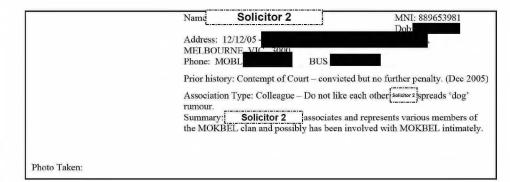
Prior history: Charged in 1999 with burglary and damage offences.
Association Type: Client

Summary: Has a living in and a Target of Drug Sqd and arrested along with Tony MOKBEL and PARISI. Charges withdrawn as a result of corruption issues.





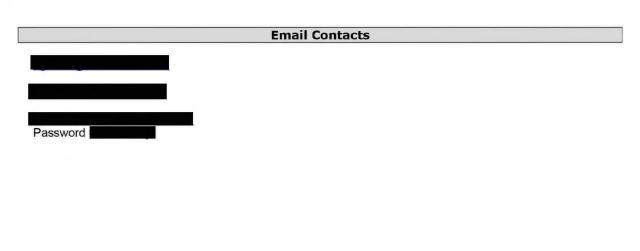
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ADDRESS HISTORY				
	ADDRESS	DATE		
	Port Melbourne	Current		
의	Melbourne	28/04/06		
	, PORT MELBOURNE 3207	19/04/06		
	MELBOURNE 3000	09/04/03		
	PORT MELBOURNE 3207	25/03/03		
	, MELBOURNE 3000	09/01/03		
	ALBERT PARK	10/02/02		
3206		19 19		
, Port Melbourne		26/06/00 - 3838 profile		
	, Carlton	03-09-93 – ADSG warrant executed. Drugs		
		located. HS and WILSON arrested.		
		17/03/91 - 3838 profile		

PHON	PHONE NO HISTORY		
PHONE NO	DATE		
now on her old SIM card 04	o6-09-08. phone. HS given with capabilities.		
	Current mobile number from 2004 onwards – Optus. PIN code to HS Optus account = Given on 16/04/08.  Previous mobile number for 7 years before that. Orange		
- Bus	08/12/01 – Leap		
r - Home	08/12/01 - Leap		
	27/06/00 - Leap		
	22/04/00 - Leap		
	22/04/00 - Leap		
- Bus	17/03/91 - Leap		
- Home	17/03/91 - Leap		
2 - Other	17/03/91 - Leap		



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## Vic Roads Licence

Nicola Maree GOBBO licence until

flat 7/ 350 Lonsdale St, Melbourne holds full and current

VicRoads Penalty Notice History				
PIN Number	Offences	Dem Points	Issue Date	Reg #
0151593668	X SPEED BETWEEN 10K - 14K	3	02/01/08	
0502615783	X SPEED BETWEEN 10K - 14K	3	22/01/06	
0319549473	S/BELT NOT FASTENED/ADJ	3	23/12/03	
0079060398	EXCEED SPEED BY 15K OR LESS	1	31/10/01	
P420106	EXCEED SPEED LIMIT BETWEEN	3	06/07/99	
	16 AND 29KM/			

	Associated	Vehicle History	
Registration	Description	Comment	
	Black Mercedes Benz SL350 RDSTR – grey interior		Seen driving on 24/10/08 by JK and Fox-0
	2006 Black Mercedes SL350 coupe	Registered to Fitzroy – Tom Karas' business	10-07-08 – advised new car reg
	Black Mercedes	Supplied by Tom Karas Business	20-04-08. Re registered to above.
	BMW 3 series soft top silver		16-04-08 vehicle torched. Written off by insurance. Paid out. Out of pocket Approx \$5000.
	2000 Saab Convertible Blue	Previous vehicle	

	Traffic Incident System			
Date	Location	Type of Accident	Persons Involved	Vehicles Involved
Not conducted	t ,			

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## BANK DETAILS / CREDIT CARD DETAILS

**TYPE** 

**DETAILS** 

In 2006 - HS IS THE HOLDER OF THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS.



HS has a TAB account.

### **WORK HISTORY**

#### **Current Work History:**

Work address & phone;

Nicola Gobbo (Barrister) Crockett Chambers Level 7 530 Lonsdale Street Melbourne 3000

PH:

FAX:

#### **ASSETS**

Currently has a mortgage on the premises at Port

Port Melbourne.

Owns a rental property at

Port Melbourne

Was a part owner in Carwash is Trendz Car Wash & Cafe, 2 Military Rd, Avondale Heights (near Highpoint S/C - Mel: 27 D4) – possibly sold. 26-09-08 HS mentions she has a \$250K interest in the High Point car wash. She is looking at lending out \$100k on settlement to the new owners of the carwash if Magic Hands franchise buys it.

### LAND TITLE INFORMATION

Not conducted.

## **LEAP DOSSIER**

GOBBO OWNS PREMISES IN CARLTON WITH HER DEFACTO (CO-OFFENDER). HAS BEEN IN PREMISES FOR 2 MONTHS. IS STUDING LAW AT MELB UNI. STATES HAS HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMPHETAMINES AND GRASS BUT HAS NO INVOLVEMENT RE: PREPARING, SELLING ETC. GOBBO COMES FROM A VERY AFFLUENT FAMILY. NOT LIKELY TO RE-OFFEND.

Created: 07/09/93 by VC01097

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**



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## **BONDS AUTHORITY**

Not conducted.

## **COUNCIL ENQUIRIES**

Not conducted.

## **MEMBERSHIPS / ASSOCIATIONS**

#### The Victorian Bar

Nicola M Gobbo

Phone: Fax: Email:

Chambers: Room

William Crockett Chambers

Qualifications: BA (Melb), LLB (Hons) (Melb), LLM (Monash)

Admitted to Practice: 7 Apr 1997 Signed Victorian Bar 19 Nov 1998

Roll:

Also entitled to Practise Federal Court of Australia Western Australia in:

Areas of Practice: Criminal Law/Intervention/Compensation

Inquests

Licensing and Disciplinary Tribunals

Mental HealthTraffic Law

Areas of Interest: Bankruptcy/Insolvency

Commercial LawImmigration/Migration

Industrial Relations

Occupational Health and Safety
 Planning and Local Government

Specialties: Crime

Profile: Profile

N:--|- ----

Nicola completed her articles at a large Commercial firm deciding upon her admission that a "life of crime" was more her style. She worked as a Solicitor with Alex Lewenbergs office appearing in many bail applications, contested hearings and committals. Nicola loves the challenge of advocacy and having to think on her feet and has found that her practice since coming to the Bar has continued to evolve to include trial work. Her lifetime ambition is to be cast in the movie "The Smurfs".



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Victorian Bar Committee Legal Education and Training - Readers' Course Sub-Memberships: \* Committee

Gobbo was admitted to the Perth bar in 1997 and lists her areas of practice as mental health as well as criminal law.

http://www.crikey.com.au/Politics/20080417-Smurf-Gobbos-Beamer-blows-up-underworld-cash-mystery.html

**13-05-08** HS dumped from law institute week as a guest speaker because of bad publicity surrounding her.

**2003/04** – Treasurer of the Criminal Bar Association of Victoria Inc www.crimbarvic.org.au/docs/AGM\_2004\_Report\_on\_Activities.pdf

## **INTELLIGENCE HOLDINGS**

States that she assisted become a crown witness re the state of the st

**C**3

The Age
Imagine waking up ill and not able to call for help ...

- Julia Medew
- September 17, 2008



Stroke victim: Nicola Gobbo was taken completely by surprise. Photo: Joe Armao

IT WAS almost an ordinary Saturday morning for Nicola Gobbo in 2004. The defence lawyer had slept in after a long week in court at the height of Melbourne's gangland war. But this weekend she had a headache she couldn't shake.



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"I took some Panadol and it didn't go away. I took some Nurofen and it didn't go away, and then the phone rang," she recalls. "I knew who it was and I knew what I wanted to say, but not a word came out. I ended up in tears, hysterical because I didn't know what was going on."

Without realising it Ms Gobbo, then 31, was having a stroke.

With no voice to talk to a 000 operator, she sent a text message to a friend calling for help.

Making it to the emergency department of the Epworth, Ms Gobbo then passed out.

"I remember waking up to a neurologist saying 'my name is such and such and unfortunately you've had a stroke.' He said 'I understand you're a barrister, I hope you will be able to speak again.'

"It was so terrifying. I had no idea what a stroke meant, what had caused it and what it was going to mean for me."

After fearing the worst, Ms Gobbo slowly regained her ability to speak over the following week. Aside from paralysis in one side of her face and temporary damage to the part of her brain that controls speech, she has not suffered any other permanent damage.

But what has frightened Ms Gobbo most was the lack of any warning. "I thought strokes only happened to old people and that it had something to do with high blood pressure or high cholesterol," she said. "I didn't have anything wrong with me except for high levels of stress."

Gobbo, whose long term clients include Mick Gatto and drug lord Tony Mokbel, is telling her story in the hope that it will help others recognize the signs.

A recent survey of 2500 Australians over 40 showed 15% did not know any signs of stroke, which include facial and arm weakness and speech difficulties. If people recognise the signs, getting to hospital can be the difference between life and death, the Stroke Foundation says.

While Ms Gobbo has quietly made changes to her life over the past four years, not a day goes by when she does not think about what happened in 2004.

"I still speak every morning when I wake up to check I'm OK. It's something that will probably stay with me forever," she says.



Photo taken - Herald Sun April 2008



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