

Shared joint puts Bali surf holiday man in jail

CINDY WOCKNER

BRISBANE: Nicholas James Langan's crime was to share a joint of marijuana on a Bali beach.

Now he's been jailed for a year after judges in the Denpasar District Court in Bali yesterday found the Townsville man (pictured) guilty of abusing a type one narcotic.

The sentence will be backdated to the time of his arrest, on January 26 this year.

The Indonesian man with whom he shared the marijuana



and who sourced it for them was also given a year.

The sentence was considerably less than the maximum four-year term demanded by prosecutors, which at the time raised eyebrows.

Prosecutors have seven days to decide if they will appeal.

Presiding Judge Cening Budiana said both men had been proven guilty of committing

the crime together, abusing a type one narcotic for self-consumption.

The more serious charge of drug possession was dismissed. "The defendants' actions were contrary to the Government's program of eradicating narcotics," Judge Budiana said.

"The defendants were polite during the trial process, forthright during the trial process, and they are still young and never committed a crime before," he said in handing down the sentence.

The Queenslander was ar-

rested on January 26 this year, just days into a Bali surfing holiday and has been locked up ever since – initially in the police cells and now at Kerobokan prison – accused of sharing the joint of marijuana with a driver from the hotel where he was staying.

Justice officials confirmed yesterday Langan would not be eligible for sentence remissions until six months after his verdict – by which time he would be due for release anyway.

Langan was initially

charged with the serious charge of drug possession, which carries a hefty 12-year sentence. But prosecutors instead opted for charges of using drugs. They pushed for the maximum four-year term and brushed off defence calls for him to be sentenced to a period of rehabilitation.

Langan was with the hotel driver, Hanung Hermantoro, who had been given some free marijuana from a friend in Kuta. They were caught with the half-smoked joint on Batu Bolong beach.

Horror attack arrest

SYDNEY: Two teenagers have been arrested after allegedly breaking into a 20-year-old woman's home, threatening her with a sword and attempting to sexually assault her while her 23-month-old son was nearby. The youths, aged 15 and 16, were arrested in Lismore midweek over the home invasion on June 23 on the NSW north coast.

Jetstar flying to Bali

SYDNEY: Jetstar yesterday resumed flying to and from Bali while Virgin Australia flights were running on time, after a volcanic ash cloud hovering around Denpasar airport moved away from the area. "We've determined it's safe to resume services," Jetstar said in a statement.

Higher taxes loom

SYDNEY: Australia's political leaders have signalled their support for serious tax reform to meet burgeoning health costs – raising the prospect of higher taxes. Prime Minister Tony Abbott, state premiers and territory chief ministers showed a largely united front on the need for tax reform at the conclusion of the Council of Australian Governments meeting in Sydney yesterday. But any details or commitments to change were scant.

Fatal slaying inquest

MELBOURNE: An inquest into the fatal shooting of a suspected Melbourne teen terrorist will rake through 3000 pages of evidence. Numan Haider, 18, was killed by a single shot to the head after he stabbed a Victoria Police officer and an Australian Federal Police officer outside the Endeavour Hills police station on September 23.

Naked raid charges

SYDNEY: A high-ranking member of the Lone Wolf outlaw motorcycle gang has been charged over a naked home invasion in Sydney's west. Police allege the 38-year-old took illicit drugs at his home in Luddenham on Tuesday evening before arming himself with a pistol, firing it into the air and then entering a house nearby – all while naked.

Cranky croc moved

PERTH: A cranky saltwater crocodile has been relocated from a popular camping and fishing area along Western Australia's Fitzroy River near Broome. The 3.2m crocodile had been lunging at locals, the Kimberley Land Council said.

Labor rift looms on asylum boats

CANBERRA: Opposition Leader Bill Shorten faces an internal party revolt over his move to allow a future Labor government to turn back asylum seeker boats.

In scenes akin to a civil war, Labor's Left caucus and Right caucus held separate meetings yesterday ahead of the party's national conference in Melbourne today.

Labor is set to adopt a watered down turnback policy, which will use turnbacks as an "option" rather than official protocol, despite the Abbott Government's turnback policy resulting in not one single asylum-seeker arrival so far this year.

On top of this, the Left of the Labor Party will demand the refugee intake be doubled to 27,000 and temporary protection visas be dumped.

Factionally, Left backbenchers openly slammed Mr Shorten for making the announcement before the conference. One even suggested the policy was illegal.

The NT News understands Mr Shorten went public because he is confident he has the numbers when the ALP conference votes on the issue. If he is rolled, it could deliver a fatal blow to his leadership.



The Labor Party's national conference promises to be a major test for Opposition Leader Bill Shorten

Picture: COLIN MURTY

NRL player in hospital

SYDNEY: Roosters rugby league player Shaun Kenny-Dowall did not appear in court on assault charges yesterday because he has been admitted to a Sydney hospital.

The 27-year-old was arrested last weekend and charged with 10 offences over the alleged common assault and stalking of his former partner Jessica Peris between October and June.

His lawyer Chris Watson said yesterday Kenny-Dowall was a patient at the Wesley Hospital amid reports the player's family and club had him admitted on Tuesday after a mental health assessment. Mr Watson said he hadn't had the chance to speak to his client.

Kenny-Dowall's matter has been listed for mention at Waverley Local Court on August 6.

Fightback on terrorism

CANBERRA: Australia is looking at launching an online counterterrorism assault, killing off Islamic State recruitment websites and Twitter feeds and launching shock ads aimed at potential young jihadists.

Parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security chairman Dan Tehan said yesterday the propaganda war was being lost and that needed to

change. He said a start could be promoting Australian values and way of life to those who wanted to come to the country, or continue to live here.

Visiting London for high-level talks with, among others, Scotland Yard's leading counter-terrorism chief, Helen Ball, Mr Tehan said British and Australian experiences were similar and much could be learned from each other.

Rape filmed, court told

MELBOURNE: A disabled transgender woman used her iPad to secretly film her stepfather while he raped her, a Melbourne court has heard.

The wheelchair-bound woman, who cannot be named, was sitting in the kitchen when her stepfather thrust himself at her on Wednesday morning, according to documents tendered in court.

When he went to the toilet,

she set up her iPad to record what she feared was going to happen, the court heard.

Detective Brad Beale told the Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday the woman had refused to have sex with her stepfather a week earlier, and had been left bleeding after he had sex with her anyway. The stepfather was denied bail, and will return to court on October 16.