Lib anger as female not paid for review

ANDREW HOUGH

OPPOSITION Leader David Speirs has been forced to intervene after a female staffer was not paid to review its landslide election defeat – but a former male MP was compensated.

The original decision has been described by Liberal Party insiders as "out of touch" and "shocking optics".

Former Schubert MP Stephan Knoll, who retired at the March 19 poll, and Unley councillor Jordan Dodd, who failed to win the seat of Badcoe, are overseeing the review.

Liberal sources said Ms Dodd (pictured), a former staffer, was not being paid, while Mr Knoll received $10,000 remuneration.

During a party meeting this week, Ms Dodd revealed she was volunteering.

One source said: "This is the kind of arrangement when you have out-of-touch leadership.

"It raises a real question around probity. The executive are filthy. We claim we're enlightened about our women problem but instead we just look like neanderthals."

Another said: "Everyone is outraged and disgusted. You just can't pay the men and not the women, the optics are shocking."

Mr Speirs and the party's upper house chief, Nicola Centofanti, intervened after being left appalled and frustrated by the disclosures, of which they were unaware until this week.

Ms Dodd is also expected to be paid $10,000.

"When the matter was raised with me, I found it to be unacceptable and personally intervened to rectify the situation immediately," Mr Speirs said in a statement.

"The input from the review panel is crucial for our new-look Liberal Party as we move in a fresh direction.

"Each member of the panel will be equally compensated for their valued work."

State president Legh Davis said it was a "non story".

"It's simply the fact she was a staffer and a decision was made by the organisation that it was not appropriate to pay her," he said.

How a dolphin changed my life

"This wild mammal trusted me and I trusted him" Melody Horrill

Melody Horrill, author of A Dolphin Called Jock, credits the mammal for helping her reclaim her life. Picture: Matt Turner

PENELOPE DEBELLE

MELODY Horrill has shared the harrowing and deeply personal story of watching her father viciously attack her mother and then harm himself, the pain and anxiety that caused, and how a Port River dolphin called "Jock" finally helped her reclaim her life.

In her recently released book, A Dolphin Called Jock, Horrill – the much-loved former Adelaide weather presenter and popular fixture at the end of the 7NEWS until her move to Victoria in 2014 – recounts the terror of her father attacking her mother in 1986, grinding a corkscrew into her face, before self-harming with a knife.

This was the most shocking incident during a traumatic childhood that resulted in Horrill struggling with confidence and her own identity – and keeping much of her troubled past a tightly guarded secret.

MORE: Read the full story online bit.ly/MelodyHorrill And in SAWeekend INSIDE TODAY'S ADVERTISER

"... my sunny, confident TV persona disguised a fear that I'd never amount to anything," Horrill says.

"As a child, my father reminded me of my uselessness during the times he even bothered acknowledging my existence.

"Of course, he also noticed me when I threw myself between he and my mother during the awful brawls at home.

"During what seemed like an endless cycle of tension and violence, I often felt adrift and alone. I struggled to understand the darkness which had enveloped my life."

But, as her book explains in great detail, she then met Jock through conservationist and marine biologist Mike Bossley and his groundbreaking work with the Port River dolphins.

Jock would greet Horrill and ask her to come and play with her in the waters of the river. He was also different to the other dolphins, living apart from them and too scared or damaged to go out into the main river.

"When I first saw him, I saw myself in him in many ways," Horrill says during an in-depth interview with SA Weekend.

"He appeared not only so physically damaged but his behaviour was so different, he seemed so lonely.

"It seemed so very sad and I felt this massive empathy for him and a connection to him."

A deep connection was formed and Horrill's confidence began to grow, albeit slowly.

For the first time in her life, she felt she had something she had always craved – unconditional love.

"To have a completely wild dolphin put their trust in you is completely remarkable, it blew my mind," Horrill says.

"This wild mammal trusted me and I trusted him.

"For the first time I felt real trust because I pretty much felt as though I had been let down by everybody."

Finally the friendship came full circle; her and Dr Bossley's friendship with Jock led him to regain his confidence and rejoin a new pod.

"When he went out of his comfort zone and met the other dolphins, he taught me about bravery, about how to leave the area," Horrill says.

"I learnt all about the necessity of doing that because I saw Jock do it."

Man survives 12m fall

A YOUNG man's "foolish decision" to climb a city building after a night out partying has almost cost him his life after he fell more than 12m on Friday morning.

Just before 2.30am, emergency crews were called to the corner of King William St and Clarence Place, after a man climbed up a downpipe along the side of a building before the pipe snapped.

The 22-year-old, from the inner Adelaide suburbs, fell more than two stories and suffered serious injuries.

He was rushed to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

His condition is no longer considered life threatening.

Investigations by police revealed the man was one of a group of four friends who had been out in the CBD that night before he made the "foolish decision" to climb up the building.

Lisa Wilkinson

Presenter stays off air after speech

SOPHIE ELSWORTH

LISA Wilkinson remains off air until at least next week amid the fallout from her Logies speech, which resulted in a four-month delay to the trial of a man accused of raping former Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins.

The 62-year-old will no longer be co-hosting The Project's much-hyped Monday night show when Hollywood superstar Chris Hemsworth is due to appear, sources confirmed to The Australian.

The cancellation will be the fourth no show from the star in just five days – she has not appeared on The Project since she gave her controversial speech at the TV awards on the Gold Coast on Sunday night.

A Ten spokeswoman said: "Lisa will most likely return later next week". Radio host Chrissie Swan, who has filled in for Carrie Bickmore while she has been on leave in the UK, remained "on call" for the program. Wilkinson gave her televised speech just days before the trial involving Bruce Lehrmann was due to start in the ACT Supreme Court.

On Tuesday, Chief Justice Lucy McCallum stayed Mr Lehrmann's trial. The court determined the speech had temporarily prejudiced the defendant's right to a fair hearing.