

Enough Rope**TX 31 March 2008****Wayne Carey****FINAL**

[Strict Embargo until 10.30pm Monday, March 31st.](#)

Andrew Denton: Thank you, thank you. That's very kind, thank you very much, thank you. Good evening, welcome to the first Enough Rope for 2008. There will be few people in Australia who don't have an opinion about tonight's guest, many of them negative. His fall from grace, from one of the AFL's greatest ever footballers to a man now widely associated in the public mind with substance abuse and domestic violence has been spectacular. If anything it's been made worse by his recent decision to sell his story to a woman's magazine. Tonight he's here for no payment, to speak for himself about his behaviour and about the allegations and police charges that have arisen from it. Ladies and Gentlemen, Wayne Carey.

Applause and music

Andrew Denton: Welcome.

Andrew Denton: Wayne welcome, we're going to do a broad ranging interview tonight, we're going to cover a lot of territory from your family background to your admission of using cocaine, from allegations about domestic violence to the charges, the serious ones that await you in Miami. But before we get to that, let's just, I'm curious about how you're spending your time now, what what's an average day like for you at the moment?

Wayne Carey: Um first of all thank you for having me. An average day for me at the moment is going from house to house. Eh not staying at my apartment, I've

been staying a little bit at Kate's, also at friends, a friend's house, basically trave-travelling yeah from my apartment to Kate's, to my ex-wife Sally's, to see my daughter, pretty much anywhere that I can jump in the car and then walk inside basically unseen and unheard of.

Andrew Denton: Because you're being staked out so much at your apartment.

Wayne Carey: No mainly because I'm embarrassed and yeah, it's a feeling that I can't explain or I've tried to explain to a person that I'm talking to but it's something that um I've never had before, it's something that I've never felt before but it's I'm ashamed, I'm embarrassed and basically I don't want to be seen so this in itself is a pretty big step

Andrew Denton: Mm

Wayne Carey: And been nervous for a few weeks now.

Andrew Denton: Yeah I can understand that and I and you're going to be well scrutinised tonight. I'm going to ask you to be candid about a whole range of things. When you're staying at Kate's place, how are you passing your time?

Wayne Carey: Well I'm watching TV, watching TV, watching DVDs, thinking a lot, obviously talking to friends and family and I've also been speaking to someone in regards to ongoing issues that I have, and have to fix so all of those things probably going over and over in my head, what's happened, and yeah bas basically talking a lot and repeating myself a lot.

Andrew Denton: Let's skip back a decade, '97, mid 90s where you were the king, one of the greatest footballers acknowledged by your peers, ever, to play the game. You led North Melbourne to two premierships, you were captain at 21 o-of the club. What was it like to be Wayne Carey: then?

Wayne Carey: I don't think I've ever been really comfortable with being in the spotlight, it's you know, I came from Wagga Wagga and moved to Adelaide, Adelaide to me was like New York. Found it very difficult to even fit in Adelaide and then moving to Melbourne when I was 16, I hated Melbourne for the first four years, despised it, tried to do everything I could to leave the club and get away from Melbourne and go back to Adelaide. After a while, I adjusted to Melbourne and yeah we had some success as a football club.

Andrew Denton: Eh as you became successful and you became the most successful player of your era, as I said you were called the king, what was it like to be the king in Melbourne? What was, what was life like? Pretty good I would think.

Wayne Carey: Oh look, I definitely you know, you definitely you you're treated you're treated well, and supporters and especially of the North Melbourne Football Club you, you know they were, they were great supporters and you know when if you were playing good football and your team was having success, obviously the adulation was probably more so than you know the than someone that wasn't in the public eye. The team always came first and it's a team sport, and you don't have success in a team sport unless you're a very good team. There's no one individual that that makes you a good team, or wins you a pre-premiership.

Andrew Denton: That is true, nonetheless you were the acknowledged leader, basically where you went, others went, would that be right?

Wayne Carey: Yeah I was the captain of the club and you could probably say I was captain of the social social scene as well and it was, after every game I'd make sure that the players got together and we'd go and have you know 20 or 30 beers and I know that sounds like a lot and if a player now had 20 or 30 beers on a Saturday night after a game you'd, well one you'd you'd probably think how do they play the next week or how do you train the next day, but you do, you become accustomed to it and yeah and I was always the first one there making sure everyone else was there and I was always the last one to leave.

Andrew Denton: How big a part of your life was alcohol generally at that time?

Wayne Carey: Well look I I'd have to say that I I would drink after every game, I'd I haven't told anyone, oh well I pro-probably friends, good friends know and a few team mates but even right up to preliminary finals when you know most most players say that you know if if you make the finals for instance you stop drinking at the end of the home and away season. I thought that what worked for you in the home and away season you continue through to the grand final. So I yeah I drank every single weekend, I don't think there was a weekend that I didn't drink during my football career.

Andrew Denton: When you were 24 an incident which really rocketed you to prominence for the wrong reasons, you'd had an all nighter at a night club with some friends after losing a footy final.

Wayne Carey: Yep.

Andrew Denton: You came out of the night club, you grabbed a woman on the breast, you said why don't you get bigger tits. She brought an action against you, a conviction was recorded against you for indecent assault.

Wayne Carey: Not a conviction, no.

Andrew Denton: No?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: You pleaded guilty?

Wayne Carey: Yes.

Andrew Denton: Correction. This was the apology that you made on the steps of the court house.

News Footage

Andrew Denton: Now that, that is known in footy circles as the 'Wayne Carey apology' because it was 'if I have offended anybody'. Looking back at that now, did you understand what you'd done?

Wayne Carey: No and looking at that, i-it certainly wasn't sincere. There's a, there was a reason for that the apology saying if I offended anyone, and that was discussed with my legal team afterwards, and the reason why 'if' was put in

there was because I actually have no recollection of the night, whether that happened or didn't happen, I pled guilty to something that I really had no idea whether I did it or not. That's what I was advised to do and I can sit here now and say that, and once again, if I did that, I sincerely apologise. It, but I honestly don't remember doing it and I certainly don't remember the night.

Andrew Denton: Did it scare you at the time to realise that you might have done something like that, and apparently you did do something like that, but had no idea?

Wayne Carey: Absolutely and I think that's the thing that scares you most when you when you when, you know, a lot of people and you know myself included on many occasions have woken up in the morning and wondered, what happened to a few hours last night, you simply don't know and sometimes it's not until weeks later that it something triggers and you start to remember what happened you know a couple of weeks ago and yeah it's not, not healthy.

Andrew Denton: Let's move forward to 2000 when you did something without the knowledge or approval of your club or your manager, you appeared at the sentencing hearing of Jason Moran, the now well known underworld figure, gunman, drug dealer, standover merchant, and you appeared as a character witness. Do you remember what you said?

Wayne Carey: I remember exactly what I said, and when I knew, when I knew Jason I didn't know Jason as a friend, I knew Jason as a neighbour, he lived about 200 metres from where I lived, I drove past his house every day and on occasions he'd pull me up in the middle of the street, after he'd had a few

drinks and asked me to bring his kids home a football jumper or a football or something to that effect and I got to know him as a as a neighbour, run into him at the supermarket, that type of thing. Jason was a big drinker, like I said often pulled me up. I did notice a change in Jason after, you know, after a period of time where every time I saw him he hadn't been drinking, he did change his demeanour and I was asked to give evidence to that to that effect and I did that.

Andrew Denton: He was, I think sentenced to two years gaol, found guilty of affray for his part in a brawl in which 13 people were injured, what was it you liked about him or admired about him?

Wayne Carey: Well one, I didn't know anything about that, I didn't, I was giving, I was giving character evidence about a guy that I knew as a neighbour, I honestly didn't know anything about his about his history and all of the things that we're now watching on TV comes to a complete surprise to me.

Andrew Denton: We must move in different circles because if somebody asked me for a character witness, a testimony of court, the first thing I'd want to know is why are you asking? I mean what have you, what have you done? But you weren't curious?

Wayne Carey: No I, like I said, I didn't know exactly, you said there were 13 people, I

Andrew Denton: Yeah

Wayne Carey: Would not have had, I still to this day I didn't know that that was ah, I knew that was, I knew, I had found out and obviously known over the time that

there was an affray in a night club, I didn't know there were 13 people injured, that's news to me tonight.

Andrew Denton: There was a story published in the Age earlier this year which said that the police tried to warn you off your association with Jason Moran through an intermediary, that they tried to let you know that he was under surveillance, you'd be better not being seen with him. Did that happen?

Wayne Carey: I've never been seen with Jason Moran other than um run into him at the supermarket or him pulling me up, I've never been in his house and I've never associated with Jason outside running into him as a neighbour and that that, it never happened. The police have never approached me and said anything about staying away from Jason Moran because I was never around him.

Andrew Denton: Not seen at Flemington Race Course with him?

Wayne Carey: Never.

Andrew Denton: Because we've spoken to people that saw you there.

Wayne Carey: Well never, never.

Andrew Denton: Ok.

Wayne Carey: Never, Never been to the races, that's a total lie.

Andrew Denton: Jason as we now know ah made amphetamines, sold amphetamines. Did you try any drugs at that time?

Wayne Carey: Never. Never taken a drug until I finished playing football.

Andrew Denton: Well let's move onto a party that isn't in dispute or certainly what happened there which is in 2002, at team mate Glen Archer's place where your affair with the wife of your vice captain, Anthony Stevens became public. When you and Kelly Stevens, in full view of the party, went into a toilet together. What's your recollection of what happened that evening?

Wayne Carey: On that particular night I went to the toilet, to go to the toilet, while I was in the middle of going to the toilet, Kelly Stevens walked in on me and shut the door. She was in there for about 10 seconds when I walked out and things escalated from there. Now there was no intercourse in any toilet, there was not me meeting Kelly Stevens, it was purely another person having too much to drink and walking in while I was while I was going to the toilet.

Andrew Denton: So it was Kelly Stevens' actions that caused all the problems?

Wayne Carey: It was Kelly Stevens' actions on that night that caused all the problems. It was both of our actions for a period of time that obviously that that caused the end result, but on that particular night it was her actions, yes.

Andrew Denton: When a drunk person walks in on you in the toilet, there are many things that you can do, including shepherding them out, whether or not you did that, what resulted was an explosion at the club, an explosion in all the

lives of the people involved, including you. Why was there that explosion, what had happened to cause that?

Wayne Carey: I think it's common knowledge, and I don't choose to bring it all up again on on this show. I know that probably the rest of Australia, and certainly my ex-wife and all the people involved, including their families, certainly don't want to relive it.

Andrew Denton: Yeah look I'm not trying to actually, and I certainly don't want to drag the other parties through something they'd rather forget. I think it's relevant to our overall conversation tonight, which is talking about how you've got to where you are today.

Wayne Carey: Mhm.

Andrew Denton: And talking about your character, and the way you've acted. I'm going to show the a bit of the press conference you gave when you quite the Kangaroos, which was three days after that party.

Press Conference Footage

Andrew Denton: I noticed, you wouldn't look at that then, you were looking up. When you hear that, what do you remember?

Wayne Carey: I was a very, it was a very difficult time and I probably still haven't come to grips with or will ever visited the issue on how that's probably effected me going forward but I don't choose to watch it, it was it's yeah wasn't a good wasn't a good time in my life.

Andrew Denton: When you say you haven't come to grips with it, do you carry guilt about what happened?

Wayne Carey: Absolutely. I take responsibility for my part in what happened and guilt obviously you know I'm ashamed, I'm embarrassed, and you know it's five, six years ago now and it's something that I'm revisiting with people that I'm talking to but it's something I'm revisiting in private and you know it's probably something that I haven't probably fully resolved in my mind.

Andrew Denton: Your former coach, Wayne Schimmelbusch said that the more you got away with, the more you could get away with. Was this the result of that attitude, that you felt that you could take what you wanted?

Wayne Carey: Definitely not. No, well it's it's not that, wasn't that type of attitude at all, it was ah, it was it was a silly mistake that, and when I say a silly mistake, I'll get accused of saying it was a silly mistake, it was a catastrophic mistake to make. It was one of the worst decisions in my life, and a decision that certainly changed the direction in my life.

Andrew Denton: You'd been married a year I think when that happened. How did you ever sort it out? How did you make that up?

Wayne Carey: How did I make it up? Well Sally and I had obviously a lot of a lot of discussions and a lot of talks and seek marriage counselling and spoke to counsellors and obviously decided to give it another go

Andrew Denton: You were not able to remain faithful within that marriage. When did you start seeing Kate Neilson?

Wayne Carey: After after I'd split up from Sally.

Andrew Denton: After? It wasn't

Wayne Carey: Yes

Andrew Denton: It wasn't before?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: It wasn't while Sally was pregnant?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: You split up from Sally six weeks after Ella was born, is that right?

Wayne Carey: Ah yes, although Sally and I were, I say that we we certainly were not getting along for a fair period of that time, but I didn't start seeing Kate Neilson six weeks after, it was a little bit longer after.

Andrew Denton: Mm

Wayne Carey: After that.

Andrew Denton: But you remained faithful within that marriage up till that point.

Wayne Carey: Yes.

Andrew Denton: And when Ella was born, let's go to a happier subject for a minute, were you at the birth?

Wayne Carey: Of course, yeah.

Andrew Denton: And what did suddenly becoming a father, what did fatherhood mean to you?

Wayne Carey: Oh well it means everything, everything to me. It was the happiest day of my life. She she was beautiful and you know I I was I was very proud obviously of Sally and and very happy to be a father, I've always always wanted to have kids and yeah it was a very happy day in my life.

Andrew Denton: And what kind of a dad are you?

Wayne Carey: Um I think I'm a good dad, yeah, I'd like to see more of Ella, she's a joy. She's she makes me smile and she's the one, the one thing right now that is a happy time is when I'm seeing Ella.

Andrew Denton: You and Sally haven't divorced have you?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: And why is that?

Wayne Carey: We haven't really we haven't really discussed it to be honest. We well we've discussed it, we've discussed. Sally and I have been quite open in our in the way we've handled separation. We haven't had to engage solicitors or lawyers and pay them lots of money to work out our financial settlements. We came to a mutual agreement, there's never been a case of you can't see Ella, you only see Ella once every fortnight. I've been able to see Ella as often as I can full credit to Sally.

Andrew Denton: How would you describe your relationship now? Are you are you friends, are you good friends?

Wayne Carey: We're friends, we've had our periods where we've, I think we've been good friends. She's going through a difficult time, this is tough on her, obviously. She has to relive everything that we've spoken about today and you know and I and she's an amazing an amazing lady. A lot tougher than me.

Andrew Denton: And what advice has she given you, because you're in a tough spot now, what's her advice?

Wayne Carey: What what's her advice? Get some help. Get some help.

Andrew Denton: Let's talk about your childhood Wayne. Your parents are Kevin and Lynne, you grew up in Wagga and you were there until you were about six. What can you tell me about your mum and dad?

Wayne Carey: Oh I can't ah, I don't really remember much about my mother when I was when I was young. I remember parts of my childhood, I remember moving to Adelaide, my mother and father separated when I was about that age.

Andrew Denton: About six.

Wayne Carey: Mum was at that time living in a shelter, she was actually, she took us kids away from my father and basically from there I didn't see from that age until then 13, when my father came to Adelaide and took us back to Wagga, didn't really see much of mum after that. They're sort of the memories that I have.

Andrew Denton: Okay so your mum moved away when you were six, to a shelter, why did she have to leave your father, what kind of a man was he?

Wayne Carey: Um look he was a hard man, He had a very tough upbringing himself. I remember that it wasn't a great relationship obviously between my mother and father and the fact that they'd split up was obviously evidence of that.

Andrew Denton: Your sister Karen and your brother Dick are here. Karen you're two years older than Wayne, is that right?

Karen Carey: Yes, that's right.

Andrew Denton: And Dick, you're 10 years older.

Dick Carey: Yeah.

Andrew Denton: I want to talk a bit about your dad, because there were many stories. We've spoken to your mum Lynne and your other sister, Sharon, we've

heard many stories about him being a violent man towards your mother. Is that your memory of your father when you were young, as a violent man?

Karen Carey: I would say that alcohol played a very big part in that and yes, yes.

Andrew Denton: Dick, is it fair to say that within your family there was a history of domestic violence?

Dick Carey: Um it's obvious that there was I sit here and say look I I love me dad and and always will, you know and he's done things wrong as a parent and look I'm the father of five and I'm sure I've done things wrong as a parent and we all make mistakes and as I said you know dad's getting on now and I don't, you know I don't want to go in and so you know there's been enough people hurt.

Andrew Denton: Mm

Dick Carey: And we don't want to rehash and open up wounds and hurt and hurt other people.

Andrew Denton: Wayne your mother wasn't with you between the ages of six and 13 when you lived with your dad in Wagga, what do you remember of of that time, what kind of a childhood was it?

Wayne Carey: Well I probably didn't see too much of dad at times either. I mean the sister Karen was like our mum, you know we all we all pulled our weight. It was you know we never went hungry, we always had food. Karen cooked

dinner every night. I walked the greyhounds every morning and every night and chopped wood and did all the things I suppose country boys do.

Andrew Denton: Were you scared of your dad?

Wayne Carey: Um I'd say yes, yep.

Andrew Denton: Cos he was known as the hardest man in the Riverina, wasn't he?

Wayne Carey: I've, once again I've been told that.

Andrew Denton: Mm.

Wayne Carey: Um and yeah he was, we were, yeah, we always thought he was pretty hard. He was very ah, he was very strict but you know he was always also very fair at at times and like I said we always had food on the table. We always had clothes on our back, we always got to school and yeah but yeah he was he was a hard man.

Andrew Denton: Was your's a house that you could bring school mates back to?

Wayne Carey: No. No there was, ih there were no visitors allowed at our house.

Andrew Denton: And why was that?

Wayne Carey: Ah we were just told no, no other kids in the in the yard. So we abided by that.

Andrew Denton: And why didn't you see your mum for seven years, why was that?

Wayne Carey: I, obviously mum, mum and as we touched on before, mum had a had a fear of our, oh her husband, our father and she chose to stay away

Andrew Denton: Did you hear from her over that time?

Wayne Carey: We not not directly, never spoke to her but we got messages through through Dick, Dick was always a constant, he was in contact with mum the whole time and we got um, yeah we got messages from mum through Dick and often got Christmas presents and things. I mean Dick was told not to say who they were from, they were from Dick not mum, so we were allowed to keep them.

Andrew Denton: Did you know who they were from really?

Wayne Carey: We got we got told we got told who they were from. Not not all the time, I don't think, but yeah.

Karen Carey: We just thought he was very rich.

Wayne Carey: We thought,

Laughter

Wayne Carey: Yeah we thought Dick was a the best big brother you could have.

Laughter

Andrew Denton: Karen you were, Wayne said you were like the mum to him.

Karen Carey: Mhm.

Andrew Denton: So what kind of a boy was he growing up in a in a difficult environment?

Karen Carey: Very shy, very quiet, didn't say boo. we lived a very quiet and I guess constricted life so for me yeah, very shy, wouldn't say boo, if you said something to him to hurt him or offend him, he would cry. It was. The person that Wayne became on the football field, I believe, was almost a different person, it was like it was an escapism for him because yeah, very shy. Most people that meet him will actually say he's very shy, he's not the person that I thought he was, the person that I seen on the football field was not who Wayne is.

Andrew Denton: Did your dad ever come and watch you play footy?

Wayne Carey: Um I got him tickets a lot of times and I think he sold them. Um

Laughter

Wayne Carey: Um I played in three grand finals and I think he, I got him a lot of tickets for all of those grand finals, he didn't he didn't come to any of those. I do know of one game that he watched me and I think that was when I was actually playing in Adelaide, I think he's watched me play once, yep.

Andrew Denton: Do you love him?

Wayne Carey: Yeah I do. I do. he's mellowed a lot obviously now as you do with age and you know I he had a he had a tough upbringing himself, and yeah and we often we often speak about him and yeah I do love him, he's my father.

Andrew Denton: Do you worry that his relationship to alcohol is also your's?

Wayne Carey: Um I've never I've never really thought about it, I spoke to my mother about it just a couple of days ago and you know I've always thought that I was a binge drinker and that I you know I'd go and you know have a drink on a weekend. I never drank during the week, never did a sip of alcohol touch my lips during the week. I was dedicated and disciplined enough to know that you know that was a time that you didn't do it but I, if alcoholism is drinking every weekend of every year, to an extent where you know you're you're you can't drink any more, then I'm definitely, I'd definitely be in the category of an alcoholic, no doubt about that.

Andrew Denton: Karen do you worry about Wayne repeating some of the weaknesses of your father?

Wayne Carey: Ah Wayne and I have had chats about his alcohol and his drinking and I've given him that advice and I've given him that opinion. At the moment I couldn't be more proud of him doing exactly what he's doing now, seeking assistance and help and taking ownership. So from this point on I applaud him and I'm never been so proud of what he's doing now so I think here is the opportunity for him to turn it around, but yeah certainly my concern has been alcohol, and we've had that discussion.

Andrew Denton: Alright well let's look at the what's happened to you since retiring in in mid 2004, how much harder was it for you to go from being a player, the king, to a non-player than you'd anticipated?

Wayne Carey: Um probably a lot harder than I thought. I've always said to people that I've always considered myself mentally strong and I often had friends and my sister and my brother and everyone for that matter say that there's going to be an adjustment period where you have to keep yourself busy and you know you haven't that discipline any more, how are you going to keep that discipline. One of my best friends used to say it to me all the time and I often use used to say to him it will never be a problem and it certainly, it certainly has become that since I have retired. After I'd retired it was when I first tried drugs and I'd never touched a drug, I'd never smoke marijuana before and still haven't smoked marijuana but I yeah I tried a drug, which was cocaine, and probably since then I've taken cocaine on and off for the last two years.

Andrew Denton: When was the first time you tried it?

Wayne Carey: Um after I retired from the Adelaide Crows, I had an injury and tried it with the, you know, a couple of friends and basically what it did for me was allow me to drink longer.

Andrew Denton: That was just shortly after you retired?

Wayne Carey: Yes. Yeah.

Andrew Denton: Because looking at the history, it seems that there's been a fairly rapid downward spiral since you've retired. I want to clarify a couple of incidents. In 2006, in New York, this story came to air earlier this year on A Current Affair, a security guard at the Wayne Carey: Hotel in New York was called to a disturbance in your room and this is part of his account.

Footage

Andrew Denton: That was his account, what's your account?

Wayne Carey: That is just total, totally false. That never happened, I've never done that or been in that sort of situation with Kate ever, and the fact that he can get on there and I have engaged serious legal a serious legal team to confront all of the things that have been said and particular media outlets that have chosen to pay people for mistruths and rubbish like that.

Andrew Denton: So why was the security guard called to your room?

Wayne Carey: The security guard was called up to the room because, and I think he reported that I smashed a, or hit myself over the head with a champagne bottle.

Andrew Denton: That's right.

Wayne Carey: Knocked myself out, but then woke up and was able to bash Kate up and then bash him up, which would be pretty remarkable in itself. But I did smash a scotch glass on my head, the, and the security guard was called up. I had blood streaming from my from my forehead or on the top of my

head, Kate and I, there was no disturbance between Kate and I at all and she stands by that, and that is the honest truth

Andrew Denton: Well two obvious questions, why would you smash a whiskey glass on your head?

Wayne Carey: Wa, ha, well once again I was very very drunk and I've actually done that a few times on football trips, as silly as that sounds, and I haven't cut myself.

Andrew Denton: It does sound pretty silly.

Wayne Carey: It is, it is very silly.

Laughter

Andrew Denton: What is, it's a party trick, it's to show off, what is it?

Wayne Carey: It that's exactly what it is and I and like I said I've done it a few times and not cut myself and it was it was stupid, it was stupidity. I mean it's something that you wouldn't do if you've if you hadn't had too much to drink

Andrew Denton: Alright, let's move onto the events of January 27th this year. Can you explain what led up to police being called to your apartment at Port Melbourne? What sort of a party had you been having?

Wayne Carey: Well Kate and I went out for dinner I think it was on the Thursday night and we had and we had a pretty big night, I think we went to Crown Casino,

we'd had a few drinks. Kate and I went back to my apartment, end up having a big night and there were there were drugs, cocaine, not other drugs but cocaine and alcohol.

Andrew Denton: Can I just stop you there, what's a big night, how would you define a big night?

Wayne Carey: Well the the night didn't stop, it basically we would've got a couple of hours sleep on that on that Thursday night or Thursday morning, I had a few things to do on the Friday, not a lot, with not a lot of sleep. that afternoon we we started drinking again and I think we met up with some friends at my apartment and then went to a just a pub down the road, I was there for probably an hour and I said I don't, I don't like this, I'd rather just go home and before you knew it we had a few people back at the apartment, on the Friday night, you know there was more, there was more drugs involved and we just, we basically kept partying.

Andrew Denton: So you'd been going two and a half days solid. And how much do you reckon you drunk in that time?

Wayne Carey: I couldn't tell you.

Andrew Denton: Mm.

Wayne Carey: Honestly couldn't tell you.

Andrew Denton: And you've been having cocaine regularly?

Wayne Carey: Um I'd had, I'd had I'd had drugs yes but not not, not necessarily regularly. I but I'd had drugs to stay awake for that amount of time, I had, yes.

Andrew Denton: Okay and this is what happened next.

Footage

Andrew Denton: It's unusual to have police called and capsicum spray used. How did that get so out of control?

Wayne Carey: Um well one if I hadn't have had that much to drink and I wasn't in that state, the police wouldn't have been called but how they came about was the party was out of hand, I'd actually, I'd had enough, I'd asked people to leave, which is very difficult to do one) when I'm in the in the in the predicament I'm in and how I'm feeling, I was very you know edgy and I was getting upset and I wanted people to leave the apartment. So I said if you don't, I'm going to get security upstairs. Some people left, and then there were obviously still people in there and I said to the security guard, I said call the police, I said call the police

Andrew Denton: Did you know all these people at the party or were some of them strangers?

Wayne Carey: No there were there were people there that I didn't know

Andrew Denton: Mhm

Wayne Carey: I'd never met before. When the police did arrive there were there were two, there was never a domestic dispute between Kate and I, in actual fact we'd we'd been you know partying for a good you know couple of days and were getting along fantastically well. We were fine. And when the police arrived I answered the door and I said, I said "I'm the one that called the police," I had security up here, I said "everything's fine," you know "you you're not needed" and then the police officer started you know pushing his way in the door and I said you're not needed and an-and then that's when the police then rushed the rushed the door, pushed the door in and I was capsicum sprayed and the rest you've seen on TV.

Andrew Denton: You make it sound also rational, but you were by own, your own admission to use the colloquial shit faced, you were completely.

Wayne Carey: No I wa I was

Andrew Denton: Off your tree.

Wayne Carey: No I wasn't and it wasn't ra

Andrew Denton: You weren't?

Wayne Carey: No I wasn't rational and I take full responsibility for the fact that

Andrew Denton: So

Wayne Carey: I, you wouldn't you wouldn't, if you were thinking clearly you wouldn't call the police. If you were. I was, I certainly wasn't thinking clearly, I hadn't been to sleep for two days.

Andrew Denton: You said that you started using cocaine after you retired so that's 2004. How regularly would you say you've used it since then?

Wayne Carey: It, I think it's depended on what has been going on or what party has been happening in that period of time. I think sometimes it would be twice a week and some and there'd be times where I wouldn't touch it for a month or six weeks or you know it wasn't a it wasn't an every week thing, it was it was purely a situation of if you were at a particular party, or even you know at home, that you'd get to a point where you've you can't drink anymore so you know you need a bit of help so you can, you can make this party last longer and that become more regular at times and then, like I said, at other times, you know there were times and I think that's probably how I hid it from my family. They knew that I could not touch it for weeks and not even sometimes have a beer for weeks, but when I did it I did it properly.

Andrew Denton: You are facing charges in Miami. Two of assaulting police officers, one of resisting arrest. This is the Miami Police Department's description of the incident.

Footage

Andrew Denton: Now I've read your account about what happened that night in Miami in October last year and to be honest it baffled me, it involved the wine glass, which I've brought because I'd like you to try and explain to me how it was,

if you can demonstrate to me, how it was that you ended up cutting Kate's face with a wine glass?

Wayne Carey: I we were sitting, we were sitting down stairs at a restaurant, we'd had a fair bit to drink, we got into an argument and as I stood up I went like that to throw the wine on Kate

Andrew Denton: Mhm

Wayne Carey: Which is unacceptable and you shouldn't throw wine on anyone, let alone your girlfriend and I take responsibility for the fact that the wine glass did cut Kate on the lip. It was an accident. I certainly didn't mean for the glass to touch Kate's lip. There was no stitches required. It was a, like even the officer said there, it was a slight cut to her lip, although it's been reported that it was a lot worse than that.

Andrew Denton: Nonetheless there must have been significant force for that glass to have broken?

Wayne Carey: If the, like I said, whether the glass broke and the end consequence was that Kate got a cut lip and I did that, and it was and it's unacceptable.

Andrew Denton: By your own admission though, you were completely out of it.

Wayne Carey: Completely.

Andrew Denton: How can you be sure of what you did and what happened?

Wayne Carey: I, you know I once again I can't remember, everything was a blur, I remember that they were around me, I was half asleep, I remember them you know going to grab me and I just remember trying to not allow them to um throw me on the ground.

Andrew Denton: Is it possible they're right?

Wayne Carey: No. I don't I don't think so. I definitely didn't kick anyone and I definitely didn't elbow anyone.

Andrew Denton: A lot of people have expressed scepticism about the story, it does sound a little spun. Has your advice been that your best defence in this situation is to say that you were under the influence of alcohol and cocaine?

Wayne Carey: There's no, there's no excuse. I don't make any excuse for any of my actions, whether you're on alcohol or a drug. there's no excuse. There's no excuse for that type of behaviour, there's no excuse for calling the police and putting yourself in those situations at my home. There's no excuse for the incidents that you brought up from you know '95. There's no excuse for the Kelly Stevens. There's no amount of alcohol or drugs that I blame on any decisions I've made and there they're a consequence of decisions I've made. They're not a reason, it's not a reason, it's not a, it's not an excuse but it's certainly it's certainly something that has been present when all of these things have occurred.

Andrew Denton: Kate did not put press charges of battery and she said that you weren't violent but she said your relationship is volatile. What does volatile mean?

Wayne Carey: I think that both Kate and I admit and openly admit and have probably and you know have my own family has seen what Kate and I are like when we've had too much to drink. There's yelling and screaming and you know pushing and shoving and you know saying things that we don't mean and and you know yelling expletives and all that type of thing and it's happened on more than enough occasions. More than enough occasions for us to assess whether we're actually good for one another.

Andrew Denton: What do you take it to mean when people use the term domestic violence?

Wayne Carey: What do I take it to mean?

Andrew Denton: Mm.

Wayne Carey: I think it can mean a lot of a lot of different things. It can mean it ce I I don't think domestic violence is it can also be mental abuse, obviously physical abuse and I don't know that's probably where I my knowledge of domestic violence.

Andrew Denton: Considering what you've just described about the volatility of your relationship, do you think that the term applies to you?

Wayne Carey: Not me directly. I think both Kate and I are every bit as bad as one another. if it was domestic violence as in what I described as domestic violence, I'm sure her father would have told her to leave me long ago and my brother would have certainly and the people that have seen it would certainly say that this isn't right. Although because of all these instances that have arisen over the last two years, you know I we'd be certainly have to have a

good hard look at both what we're doing as individuals and what we're doing as a couple.

Andrew Denton: Karen if I could go to you for a second. What Wayne's just described pushing, shoving, yelling abuse, throwing wine in Kate's face, do you see echoes of your childhood here?

Karen Carey: I do but it's not my brother. It's like I've he's been lost for the last two and a half years. Yes the alcohol, and you know and I've said to him it's a with the drinking that you know he makes poor decisions when he's been drinking and he needs to address that, but the last two and a half years it's not Wayne and it was only just recently after he got off the phone to you a couple of weeks ago I left him and said I think I'm going to get my brother back.

Andrew Denton: Wayne, a lot of stories have come out about you since these stories broke and I'd like to try and quickly clear some of those up. Last week on 3AW, Derryn Hinch, who's had many things to say about you over the years had this stay.

Derryn Hinch Clip

Wayne Carey: Can Derryn say that?

Andrew Denton: He did.

Wayne Carey: Because that is just a total lie. Do you honestly, does anyone honestly believe that?

Andrew Denton: I don't know, I'm asking you.

Wayne Carey: I mean that is that is one of the funniest things I've ever heard, I mean it's not funny because it's being said about me and you know I'm sitting here watching my sister be upset, and I'm and I know how it effects everyone and they hear, they hear stories, well this has just snowballed into ridiculous, outlandish statements and a person like Derryn to say that, and I got I took a pistol from a policeman's holster and then got locked up and got out of it because I knew a po, I mean that is just ludicrous. And the and the van thing, I mean I, it's never happened and I'm not sure what legal ramifications or what I can do about what, and that's the first time I've heard that by the way. I my manager had told me that I was rocking a van but that's, that

Andrew Denton: Mm

Wayne Carey: That is just absolutely ridiculous and if I can do anything about that, it'll certainly be done.

Andrew Denton: I feel like I've employed a lot more lawyers tonight, if nothing else.

Laughter

Andrew Denton: Let's talk about the what I would characterise as perhaps the most recent misstep, which was selling the story to New Idea, now you're probably aware of the outrage that followed that and I could summarise it, with it's

cheap and tacky to sell a story about violence of any sort and about drug taking to a magazine. Why did you take that path?

Wayne Carey: I haven't been paid by New Idea.

Andrew Denton: No one's been paid by New Idea?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: There is no payment for that story.

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: Kate's not been paid.

Wayne Carey: Kate hasn't been paid, I haven't been paid.

Andrew Denton: There was never payment discussed?

Wayne Carey: No. I wouldn't, I the one thing about money and for this story and for all the media outlets that have reported and that all of those blogs that you've read and all the media reports that we've all listened to and read, all of those media outlets have offered me six digit sums and they're they've all put those on the table in front of me and because Kate and I decide to do a story with New Idea that we thought it was the best way for us as a couple, they are now you know saying that you know how can you do this, yet all of those very people offered six si six figure sums, so how hypocritical is that.

Andrew Denton: And you're saying now on the record there was never any payment to

Wayne Carey: Never received.

Andrew Denton: To you or any third party on your behalf

Wayne Carey: No

Andrew Denton: Or Kate's behalf?

Wayne Carey: No never received, I have not received any money from New Idea.

Andrew Denton: And you never discussed it with them?

Wayne Carey: No. I've never discussed money with New Idea, no.

Andrew Denton: And it was never discussed with them on your behalf?

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: Okay. I want to show you one last thing from the Miami Police, this is lieutenant Bill Schwartz with a free character assessment.

Footage

Andrew Denton: Do you accept that you are prone to aggression when under the influence of alcohol and drugs and also aggression towards women?

Wayne Carey: No I'm not aggressive towards women, and no I'm normally not aggressive when I'm when I'm on alcohol or drugs. I'm no, I'm not an aggressive person.

Andrew Denton: Look I'm sure in your counselling you'll address this and as I said to you before the interview, I'm not here to be your prosecution.

Wayne Carey: No.

Andrew Denton: But you have, you have talked about tonight grabbing a woman's breast, being verbally abusive towards a woman, pushing and shoving with Kate, we know that her that you threw a glass of wine at her and accidentally or otherwise you cut her lip. Don't these constitute aggression?

Wayne Carey: Well when you put it like that maybe they do. I mean I have to ah, these are these are things that I'm currently talking about and I suppose the question that you asked me is whether I think that I'm aggressive and whether I'm normally aggressive and for everyone that knows me, knows that I'm not an aggressive person but when you when you add those things up over a period of time, well I'm sure they'll be deeply discussed.

Andrew Denton: You've said you don't want to blame your upbringing, do you accept then that you are the problem?

Wayne Carey: I do. I do. I've made these decisions and I have to I have to live with them and it's been very difficult, it's been a the toughest eight weeks of my life and I it's going to very difficult. I mean at the moment I'm embarrassed to walk down the street. How long that's going to take to overcome that, I'm

not sure. I think about every day going overseas, think about every day not seeing my family and leaving Ella and all of those things and I don't want people's pity or or feel sorry for me, that's honestly the way I feel right now and I think about that every day.

Andrew Denton: Kate was supposed to be here tonight but she isn't. Why is that?

Wayne Carey: Well I think Kate has and you may have read a report, she went out and had a night out on the town. The report wasn't accurate, although once again it had elements of truth about the fact that Kate was out until early hours of the morning and drinking and I obviously wasn't there, but the fact that I think the embarrassment of that, and where Kate obviously wants to get to, you know I we both thought that it was a good decision that you know she didn't, she didn't come to Sydney and that she she's seeking the help that she needs for her as a for herself.

Andrew Denton: And what does this mean for your relationship?

Wayne Carey: Well I, look eh, I think that first and foremost I think I have to um continue down the path that I'm going down with the help that I'm receiving. Kate will do what's best for her as far as her herself and her treatment. It may take Kate, Kate's discussed that she may go overseas to get that help. I fully support Kate in everything she's doing and I'm and I'm there for her to make sure that she gets the right help as she is for me. And then after that, after that um, after that's finished or we think we're in a place that we both want to be, I think that's when we'll sit down and assess whether we're one) good for one another, or two) should be together.

Andrew Denton: We talked about a long history tonight of misjudgements and incidents and you've as a result of all of these things you've lost all your work with 3AW and Channel Nine, you're basically unemployed. You say you, you talk about the place where you want to be. How do you see the next 10, 15 years of your life panning out? Where do you hope to go?

Wayne Carey: Oh Andrew if I could answer that that'd be fantastic. I I don't know where I'll be in a month so.

Andrew Denton: Where, where, how, can you describe the place where you want to be then.

Wayne Carey: Where I want to be.

Andrew Denton: Mm.

Wayne Carey: I obviously want to want to be in a in a place where I'm seeing my daughter as much as I can, busy with my own business. And in 15 years time hope hopefully not having too many worries with Ella, because she'll be about 17 then. So um.

Andrew Denton: You don't want her going out with footballers.

Laughter

Wayne Carey: Certainly not. She will not be going anywhere near a footballer Andrew.

Andrew Denton: Mm. Karen and Dick, I know Dick that you've had great reservations about tonight in many ways. As you've watched your younger brother what do you think of this man?

Dick Carey: I'm sitting here looking at him now and I'm relieved that it's all come to a head now and you know I've been thinking of this song for ages and ages and an uncle of our's who was a was a tremendous fella, when he when he passed away I can remember the minister saying a few words about he's not heavy, he's my brother and that's who he is and I I love the bloke and I couldn't be prouder of him and I'm there for him all the time, no matter what the situation is and I've said to him before he's got a lot of supporters out there and a lot of friends and the most important thing is now is him be proud of himself and stand up and let's get on with life.

Andrew Denton: Karen with respect to what Dick just said, there's much for Wayne to be proud of but much to be ashamed of as well.

Karen Carey: And I think he's acknowledging that and he's got the hard yards, the this is when it begins, him working with the counsellors, for him to be able to move forward. I want him to be happy, you know he didn't say it tonight the he he's gone without food over the last couple of weeks because he's been too ashamed to go to the grocery store to get food, you know. I want him to be in that place. The hard yards start now, I want him to be happy within himself.

Andrew Denton: And they are hard yards. You have a hearing in Miami on the 18th of April. The charges, if you're found guilty, is a maximum of 15 year sentence, will you be going to that hearing?

Wayne Carey: I'll be judged by what my solicitors lawyers say in Miami. I've, I said I've engaged a team in Miami a serious legal team and I'll be defending those charges and if it requires me to be there, I'll, of course I'll be there. I'll be defending them, I won't be ah, won't be pleading guilty.

Andrew Denton: They are hard yards, I wish you well in the choices you have to make and thank you for coming on tonight.

Wayne Carey: No worries, thanks Andrew.