ASADA witness clouds claims

EXCLUSIVE

CHIP LE GRAND

ASADA’s star witness in its case against 34 current and former Essendon footballers has contradicted claims by a Chinese biochemical supplier about the substances at the centre of the doping scandal.

Shane Charter, a self-styled anti-doping consultant who arranged in December 2011 for the importation of peptides supplied to Essendon sports scientist Stephen Dank, has produced documents showing he discussed two forms of Thymosin with Shanghai-based company GilBiochem.

Mr Charter has provided Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority investigators with emails that indicate he supplied peptides to be imported from Shanghai to Melbourne.

In a December 2011 email detailing the company’s quoted prices for the order, Mr Xu includes a table that lists Thymosin and Thymosin Beta-4 among the peptides it can supply. The two substances are listed with distinct prices — £1,390 per 50 g of Thymosin and £1,590 per 100 g of Thymosin Beta-4.

Thymosin Beta-4 is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency and athletes who use it face a two-year ban from sport. Thymosin Alpha-1 is permitted in sport.

The ASADA case is that Mr Dank ran a laboratory in which he used Thymosin Beta-4 to supply athletes with banned substances.

ASADA alleges two batches of the peptide were compounded by pharmacists Nima Alavi and administered by Mr Dank.

The players’ defence is that they were administered with a permitted form of Thymosin.

In its summary of evidence provided to lawyers for the players, ASADA goes further, saying it only imported Thymosin Beta-4 from China. This was supported by Mr Xu when he told The Australian: “The Thymosin we synthesised (sic) and supplied to Mr Xu refers to Thymosin Beta-4. It is understood that the peptides received were not tested.”

Mr Dank has denied administering the peptides to any Essendon players.

Mr Charter arranged for the peptides to be imported through Austgrow, a fabric manufacturer with an office in Melbourne and Shanghai. A spokesman for the company, Cedric Anthony, declined to comment on Mr Charter’s appointment.

In November, Mr Charter declined to respond to questions. He is facing unrelated criminal charges of trafficking and possessing steroids and other performance-enhancing substances.

The discrepancy between Mr Charter and Mr Xu’s account emerged as ASADA provided a summary of its case and transcripts of interviews with Mr Charter, Mr Alavi and former Essendon high-performance coach Dean Robinson to the AFL, general counsel Andrew Dillon.

Mr Dillon had sought the evidence to enable the AFL to expedite its hearing of the case once the players, as expected, are formally charged with a doping offence and issued infringement notices by the Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel.

The provision of the material has increased the chances of the saga being resolved this year.

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Inquiry fears bias in Bowraville appeal

DAN BOX

A DECISION about whether the alleged killer of three Aboriginal children will face court should be taken away from the NSW state prosecutor and Attorney-General after concerns of bias, a parliamentary inquiry has found.

An independent expert should be given the task of reviewing the killings in Bowraville, in northern NSW, over five months between 1990 and 1991, the report found.

The victims’ relatives say any decision must be made soon, as potential witnesses have died in the years since the murders. Detectors, who told the inquiry they believed an alleged serial killer was responsible, will now begin preparing for a likely appeal by lawyers representing the victims’ families to have the man retried.

“A killer whose crimes constitute evil at its very darkest and most depraved is still free,” said Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, in a statement on Monday.

A Bowraville man faced separate trials over the murders of Evelyn and Clinton but was found not guilty. Appeals by the families of the two children who died in 1991 have previously been rejected by the state prosecutor’s office and two former attorneys-general.

The inquiry’s report, which has been widely criticised for its length and complexity, said the report should be considered by an independent expert.

The committee acknowledged the concerns raised about the bias of the judge or conflict of interest, whether real or perceived, of certain individuals that have been involved in the retrial process, the report said.

With the state government ....

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House haunted by tale of Hanging Rock

nearby Namboon River. Her body has not been found.

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With the state government seen as likely to accept the findings, one of Clinton’s relatives, Leonie Dunlop, said: “I know that the day the prime minister will go back and get started straight away. It’s November now, we don’t want to waste another
Murdoch head cancels Higgott 'crisis' talks

ANDREW BURGEEL

MURDOCH University has plunged further into crisis after Chancellor David Flanagan suddenly cancelled a meeting with disgruntled academics, citing "legal advice" not to discuss the dismissals of vice-chancellor Richard Higgott.

Staff at the Perth institution were told on Tuesday that Mr Flanagan would address them on Friday morning to answer questions on "recent events", which would have included the leadership turmoil that has gripped the university in recent weeks.

In a move that infuriated senior academics, Murdoch's acting vice-chancellor Andrew Taggart, sent an email to staff on Wednesday, revealing the meeting would not go ahead.

The university had been advised to postpone the meeting due to legal issues involving the ongoing investigation into matters referred to the Corruption and Crime Commission.

"As you would appreciate these issues are extremely sensitive and unfortunately, there is very little more than what is already on the public record that can be shared with you at this time," Professor Taggart said in the email.

The Chancellor is aware of the concerns in relation to this and understands the position of the university, and has indicated his willingness to talk with staff when it is appropriate to do so.

"I will certainly schedule meetings for staff to meet with the Chancellor and I and the earliest opportunity and look forward to discussing how we can all work together in making the university's vision a reality.

"The meeting with Mr Flanagan was scheduled after more than 40 academics, most full professors, requested an explanation about events surrounding Professor Higgott's departure.

"The Australian revealed that an anonymous group of academics had harrassed Mr Flanagan in June to allege a range of misconduct by Professor Higgott, including credit card misuse, bullying and a lack of transparency in decision-making.

"There is no evidence the allegations in the letter are accurate.

AMOS ARKMAN

MLINDA BOUTH

WHY couldn't they forget those haunting cries of "Menuland Menuland" echoing through the bush? The shockwaves of activity generated by a controversial appearance, was depicted in Peter Weir's controversial film, Hangin Rock.

The story helped inspire the design of this year's Kookaburra Award for Residential Architecture winner, a house that sits in Hangin Rock's shadow at Holkett in central Victoria's Macedon Ranges.

Kerthi Thompson — who親 at a ceremony in Darwin last night became one of a handful of women to take home the prestigious prize from the Australian Institute of Architects — was a girl when the movie came out.

"I don't hear the name Hangin Rock, or think about that place without remembering Peter Weir's film," Thompson said.

"The building has a certain affinity to it. It's a shame that it's not away everything immediately."

"Stepping down gently over three levels, House at Hangin Rock is made of precast concrete arranged in a Mondrian shape, with an overhanging roof that seems to mimic the rock's outlines.

The black cladding and timber fit effortlessly make the surrounding sandstone "melt away".

Warren's film was a play on the eons of wonderment and speculation about the ancient Australian settlements.

The year's most recognised project is the University of Queensland's Advanced Engineering Building, which changed the face of the university.

A collaboration between Brisbane-based architect Richard Kirk and the international firm Hassel Studio, it combines traditional materials with techniques borrowed from the day-to-day conditioning to create a new educational environment.

"We are trying to remove the hierarchy of learning so that all knowledge is平等 and the research is not just as important as a lecture being given to a bunch of first-year undergraduates," Kirk said.

"We are searching for that cross-fertilisation, that interdisciplinarity, that engagement, that collaboration.

The building won three AIA prizes, the coveted Sir Zelman Cowan Award for Public Archi, the Eliet Sonnova Award for Interior Architecture and sustainability prize.

It places laboratories next to a busy thoroughfare, inviting passersby to look in. "The biggest issue I have with a lot of academic buildings is that there's a lot of fascinating things going on inside and we tend to hide them," Kirk said.

"And also singled out a redevelopment of Sydney's inner-city Prince Alfred Arcade and one of its environment, which has made it into a "great golden ground".

It's the second highest mammal known from the era, and the mastodon of that time from the south-eastern hemisphere.

Professor Krause said his best games was it measured between 50cm and 50cm from nose to nunn, it lived between 66 million and 71 million years ago.

In a paper released by Nature, Professor Krause and colleagues have raised that Vintana sertichi, probably an agile plant-eater with good eyesight in low light and a good sense of smell, handy to avoid predatory dinosaurs and other hazards of its environment.

"It would have been a fine host of fossils for a dinosaur," AP

AC/DC star 'attempted to have two men murdered'

LAIN SHEDDEN

AUCKLAND's long-singing drummer Phil Rudd has been the beating heart of songs such as "High Country Man", "Let There Be Rock" and "Highway to Hell". The question of whether he fired shots at his neighbours in a New Zealand suburb is now being heard incourt.

Rudd was also charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of cannabis and threatened to kill, following a police raid and his home at Matara in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty yesterday.

Phil Rudd arrives at court in New Zealand yesterday. He appeared later in Taumarunui District Court, where it was heard that the police had attempted to procure murder on.

September 25 or September 26 this year. Dressed in a grey shirt and jeans and no shoes, he said nothing during his brief appearance.

"I was granted bail and left the court in a Mercedes convertible. Details of the complaints and the people Rudd is accused of wanting dead were suppressed by judge Lois Rees.

There has been speculation in recent weeks Rudd is no longer a member of AC/DC. He was found most successful and enduring member of AC/DC, from a video shoot for a new album in London a few weeks ago AC/DC has also issued pictures that do not feature the drummer.

Rudd was the band's drummer from 1972 to 1983 and returned in 1991. He was part of the group when it released its new album in Vancover in June. Speaking to The Australian in August, Rudd suggested he would be part of the band's world tour to promote the album Rock Or Bust, which will be released in Australia on November 28. "We're not sure when we'll release it," Rudd said, but "it will be 2015." Rudd has lived in New Zealand for more than 30 years, owning a helicopter company, a sheep farm and a restaurant. In 2010, unembarrassable membranes.

Between the years 1995 and 2000, Rudd was convicted for drug possession, but it was overturned on the grounds that it would stop him touring with AC/DC. The veteran drummer issued his first solo album, High in Seoul, in August with NZ musicians Allan Badger and Geoffrey Martin.

Rudd is scheduled to appear in court again in three weeks.

ARMS P16

New weapon in superbug war

The first effective alternative to antibiotics in the fight against drug-resistant infections has been developed.

In a small patient trial the drug successfully targeted the superbug MSRA. Scientists said it was unlikely the infection could develop resistance against the new treatment, already available as a commercial drug.

Researchers hope to develop a pill or an injectable version.

British Prime Minister David Cameron warned that the new drug-resistant superbug could take medicine "back to the dark ages". His Chief Medical Officer, Sally Davies, predicted an "apocalyptic" scenario in which basic procedures, from hospital replacements to chemotherapy, would become fatal. About 500,000 deaths in England each year are caused by antibiotic-resistant strains of disease. The latest new class of antibiotics was predicted in the 1980s. The latest new class of antibiotics has been developed and successfully tested on 24 patients.

Conventional antibiotics need to reach the inside of the cell to work, but certain strains of bacteria such as MRSA have evolved that are not affected by these drugs.

"About 80 per cent of gonorrhoea infection is resistant to frontline drugs and multi-drug-resistant salmonella, tuberculosis and flu are on the rise. The solution for the future, our single, is to try all these illnesses and the challenge is to create stable versions that can be packaged as drugs."