



TRANSCRIPT OF SUBMISSION

KEIR DERNELLEY – 26 APRIL 2024

Transcript Produced by
LAW IN ORDER PTY LIMITED

ACN 086 329 044

T: 1300 004 667

W: www.lawinorder.com.au

LAW IN ORDER
Where work flows.

<THE RECORDING COMMENCED

KEIR DERNELLEY: I - I don't know the truth. That's the bottom line. And I don't - I really - I don't know. I didn't - I forgot to bring something but it doesn't matter. I
 5 didn't know. I don't know if my grandfather was Aboriginal, right. Now, the family (indistinct) my - both on my - let me see, so on my dad's side, Irish Catholic; on my mum's side it's McNamara, is the family tree goes back, sort of to the 15th century. Now, look, I don't know. Because I - what I do know is this, is that my family - well I'm estranged from all of my family. My kids, my - everyone. But the - it's a very
 10 contentious issue, the issue of Aboriginality. Now, I've come to a point where it - well, I don't - but what people think, it isn't really their business.

That's a very - you have to be pretty - you have to have strong belief in what you believe to get to that point. And I will just say that my grandfather, that - and I have
 15 changed over my life. So I got brought up by a narcissistic mother who had the dark triad of personality traits. I went to Melbourne - I started out at Elsternwick Primary and I went to Melbourne Grammar. And so I go from this sort of relaxed state school environment, you know, where - to this hard-arse blue stone prison where you just couldn't speak, you are dressed in the same uniform. You're handed a blue diary and
 20 it went everywhere with you. The moment I stood up I was hammered down. But the thing - it - and I don't know. It - I - I can't say that it was all bad, but what I'm saying is I was given - I came from a working class background but I didn't fit in there. It was the elite of the elite kids that - in terms of you know, their parents. You know, it was all the new money and all the old money.

25 There was - there was only one Chinese kid, right. And Jewish kids, well, there was this thing called the Jew jump, and I heard Raph Epstein talking about it because he was a couple of years behind me. It was bizarre. You have got Jewish kids, chucking stuff up in the air and going "Jew Jump". And anyway. But I say, I don't know if my
 30 grandfather was Aboriginal, right. But I came home from school one day and I told an Aboriginal joke. You know, pretty much - you know, it's probably not offensive. You know, what do you call a thousand Aboriginals rolling down a hill? An Abolanche, right. It's obviously politically incorrect to make that joke these days. My grandfather was so, like - he just smiled - he had this beautiful smile where he just -
 35 his teeth came out. And he had falsies and so they were pretty white. But, you know, he just - he said, "Hey son, you never know, you might be one." And you never know.

40 So these things over life have come - made sense to me through just thinking about it but continuing my - the interest in Aboriginal culture that he sparked in me. And to be honest, well, I - maybe he was born in Gippsland, maybe he wasn't. I just don't think there is any - there is a birth certificate for Elsternwick, at home - it said a home birth but - so on the family tree there is four - three brothers. But none of it makes any sense to me because there was 10 boys living together, right. And they
 45 were - the family name was Dickens. So my grandfather was Everett Dickens. I suspect - and the house was in Elsternwick and it was ruled by Nanna.

And Nanna was 5 foot 5, she was terrifying. No one loves Nanna. She ruled with an iron fist. But the boys lived together. There was no social welfare.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So 10 boys in -

5

KEIR DERNELLEY: Well there is only three in the family tree.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

10 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** But my grandfather is one of them.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Look, I'm not going to - I don't want to upset my family and their truth, right. They can have it. That's their - I don't - I don't need to criticise that. Look, I accept their truth, right. It's not saying if you want to believe that, you know, it's up to you. I'm just saying, look, that's what they believe and I accept that. But I don't know if I - I don't - I'm not sure if I believe it.

20 But the thing is, that there is one thing that I can say is that I don't know exactly what date, but I can go back and pin it down, right. So my grandfather is in this family, this Dickens family, they are all in sport. You know, it's a sporting - he was an excellent cricket - football player. And anyway, so they - he bought in - around early 1930s. Okay, so that big embarrassment of the family that was the - my grandmother got pregnant before they got married. So they had a shotgun wedding. Now, they had 25 a small child, Barbara, and they - my grandmother, Betty, was living with the Dickens boys and under Nanna.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** So your nanna was living with your grandfather as they grew up?

35 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** No. So - I will answer. So Nanna is not (indistinct) and she just rules with an iron fist. Her favourite thing, honestly - so my grandfather and grandmother ended up looking after her in her older years (indistinct) more loopy than she already was, right. Her favourite thing was to going down to Athol Street and sitting there in the car and, "Look at him! Oh, my God. Look at what he's wearing!" That was her favourite thing.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** People watching.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Sitting in the back of the car and criticising them.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Criticising.

45 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** No, sorry, sorry. The point is, that what I do know is that at some point in what - just after Barbara was born somehow my grandfather got pressed into work.

Now, when I say, "pressed into work", I don't know whether that's - he ended up going around Australia 1.5 times in the back of a ute with five other Aboriginal men and a big fat white supervisor.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Was that like a criminal punishment or was that -

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, he didn't drink. He didn't smoke. He umpired cricket. But this guy, he was gentle, quiet, he was - he was honestly a true gentleman.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** So this was a job he had or kind of unpaid job?

KEIR DERNELLEY: I don't know.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You don't know.

15

KEIR DERNELLEY: I don't know. I mean, there must be some record possibly.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

20 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** I mean, I - I am going to have a guess and I'm going to say that he was - I know he was a very good worker because in his life he only had two half days off work.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh gosh, wow.

25

KEIR DERNELLEY: And one half day was when his boss fell into - he worked at Skipping Girl in the 40s.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

30

KEIR DERNELLEY: And his boss (indistinct) was cleaning out a vat that hadn't vented properly and he died.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Gosh.

35

KEIR DERNELLEY: And because my grandfather was very upset he took a half day off. He took another half day off, he felt sort of unwell. He actually - like when he was 80 he went to have a knee replacement, it turns out he was having a heart attack, right. So he had a heart attack and slept through it but kept going.

40

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah, a pretty hardy guy.

KEIR DERNELLEY: My grandmother when she was 15, you know, she got a job as a sewing mill where Reg Hunt is. She walked from the house, went to the dentist, got all her teeth pulled out and walked home again.

45

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's what they used to do. Pretty hardy folk.

5 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** I sort of grew up in that environment. So that's something I know for a fact. And the issue of my grandfather's - so he looked Aboriginal. I just knew him as Pop. So I can't really see colour. I don't - I mean, I know that sounds funny but people are people to me. I don't know. It's something - like I don't - of course my brain makes certain judgments, but - I don't - I have to say I have no prejudice. I genuinely judge every person on who they are and what they are. And the funny thing is, the funny thing about this story is that my grandfather may not have been Aboriginal, but he got put in a - now, because I was thinking, who paints white posts for 18 months without going home? Right?

10

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That was their job, to paint the white posts on the road on the lap around Australia?

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** They went right around.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's quite interesting, isn't it?

20 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** 1.5 times. Now, this is the interesting thing. That can you imagine the conversation when they are in the back of the van? Now, my grandfather, he's come from the Dickens family and no one discriminated. Everyone - look, there wasn't a social services network, so if someone - if a man got sick or a wife died, or there was an abusive - someone would take the kids. The kids were constantly swapped around and that's, I think, how the 10 boys - a couple, one - I know Sean had been to war and he had shell shock. But they all looked after each other. So they all - whatever they earned they put in.

25

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That was like the 30s in Elwood.

30 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yes. Okay, so he was born in 1912, I think it was.

30

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 1912. So I'm just thinking at the timeline.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Elwood was a slum.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** It was, actually.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It was. It was constantly flooded.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Constantly.

40

KEIR DERNELLEY: There was a tram that went down to Point Ormond.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Lots of itinerants living there coming from all over the country to come and live there because it was cheap. Cheap.

45

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Really?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Because the bay comes through.

KEIR DERNELLEY: The bay came through and flooded Elwood for years, right up in until 70s.

5

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So it was a cheap place to live and often -

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, they actually - yeah, there was something. Gardenvale, Catholic world class. Prahran, where my dad grew up, soul Catholic world class. So on both sides my parents, you know, came from - and wasn't just came, you know, they had aspirations. And they - yeah.

10

So I was privileged because I went to - not because we could afford it, because my mum was a teacher and there was no such things as fringe benefits tax.

15

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Did she teach at Melbourne Grammar?

KEIR DERNELLEY: She was a director of music in the junior school.

20

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: But keep in mind that Lucifer was the director of music in (indistinct) and -

25

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I see. Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, you know, God got pissed off because people started liking music more than him. So that was a funny (indistinct) anyway. Sorry.

30

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So you have got some questions obviously about your heritage. It is hard to put it together.

35

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, no, I have. Within me, I - so I got brought up in this privileged thing. My mother is narcissistic. Luckily I didn't inherit the gene, and when I - look, the last 10 years my dad died, separation, hard times. It's forced me to consider a lot of things. A lot of - you know, face up to a lot of truths in my own life.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

40

KEIR DERNELLEY: Now, one of them is - my mother and by (indistinct) she is - she is an adamant denier that my grandfather was Aboriginal.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

45

KEIR DERNELLEY: It was not something that was ever discussed in our family.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That wouldn't be the first time I've heard that.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, no, no. Like it was the - it was like having a handbrake. You couldn't get a job. My grandfather didn't get a job. He was told he's too big. He's too big. You know, so no one in Australia - if I was at the footy with my dad, dad
5 was - he was 6 foot 6 and he had been a captain of basketball at Monash. Total gentle giant. My grandfather was - he just was calm. And I remember, we - I have got a chronological photograph memory, not perfect. But in 1976 we went to see a Richmond-Essendon game at Richmond, and I loved, you know, going to the footy. And anyway, my Pop was, "Oh come on then". And this bloke behind us goes, he
10 had - you could smell his beer on his breath. And he goes, "shut up you fucking Abbo." And you are talking to my dad? Abbos, right? You know, I had no - no sort of (indistinct) discrimination, religious discrimination in the house. There was always jokes but not - it's just they are not jokes but (indistinct) that were probably politically incorrect. (Indistinct) Oh I think he might have been struck with a tar
15 brush. These were people born in the -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The white Australia policy was, you know, a thing in the 50s and 60s and -

20 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: - carried over.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** It's not surprising.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, not surprising.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No. And I - as - you say, well I'm sorry to skip around here.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** That's okay.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Because if you want to bring me back, please, like - so if I wander bring me back. But could I just take - the - I had two amazing experiences as a child. I - one of them was I went up to Sydney. I went up to Sydney and - no,
35 cheers, mate - with my parents. (Indistinct) I don't wear shoes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's all right.

40 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** (Indistinct) I have got - I have got dressed (indistinct) my usual attire is, you know, Yacka work pants and the Aussie - Aussie workboot. Thongs. But, yep (indistinct) I have been dressed today by the Ashburton St Vincent's Op-Shop.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Lovely. You can find some good stuff there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Beautiful.

KEIR DERNELLEY: I buy all my clothes there.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So you were going to - I guess we should probably try to keep into a little bit of a -

5

KEIR DERNELLEY: I will just - look really -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I guess, what do you - I guess what's the things you want to tell us?

10

KEIR DERNELLEY: I want to - there is two truths.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yep, okay.

15

KEIR DERNELLEY: I suppose it's my truth, right, that I'm telling. And there is a truth that I want to know -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yep.

20

KEIR DERNELLEY: - that underpins all truths.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

25

KEIR DERNELLEY: Okay. So that having worked in the industry of finding the truth, the business of finding the truth, I know it's like a tree. And the trunk of the tree is the core. It's the agreed truth. And the commonly agreed truth. And the branches that come off it, they are the people stories. The flowers that blossom, right, they feed the bees, pollinate the trees. Okay.

30

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I see where you are going.

KEIR DERNELLEY: There's - there has - no one knows the truth. No one. Bunjil.

35

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's the roots. You can't see the roots.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Exactly. So the roots, they are Bunjil. He knows.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bunjil?

40

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There is nothing more dangerous than one single truth, that I - everything is multi-storied.

45

KEIR DERNELLEY: You have 10 people watching something, you will have 10 -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well there are some universal truths in a sense, right?

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, they are agreed -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indistinct) will of those.

5 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Could I just say -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The trees of - the laws of nature.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah.

10

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah. Lore will be different -

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, please, this is a really important point. Justice is a social construct.

15

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Alright. Now, areas (indistinct) connection between families. It doesn't really intersect. Because when you go to a court it's a lose-lose. Because you are asking the court to decide, well, if you can negotiate it out it's much better because, you know, if you ask the court to impose a decision both people lose. See the thing is, justice is something that is a social construct that is separate from the truth. It's very separate. And - but what I want to say is - so I'm fascinated by two questions. One is in my truth. Is - look, my son, I mean, my whole life now I spend all my time finding, repairing, caring for Aboriginal artefacts. I have spent - my hands in the ground the whole time. There is not a day - look, I can't help myself because when I was a kid my grandfather used to take me - so he could never talk - I'm not going to bring out a gun or anything like that. So don't stress by that. I wouldn't bring out any (indistinct) just -

25

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No worries.

KEIR DERNELLEY: That's cool. So this is a few - I - I'm just going to get out of the (indistinct) now. Do you know, I can take it anywhere in Melbourne, you know. (Indistinct) many Aboriginal artefacts (indistinct) they are everywhere. I go to the - across the road, I found a bit of trouble finding headquarters, it was like getting into control headquarters.

35

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, it is hard to find.

40

KEIR DERNELLEY: (Indistinct) isn't that interesting. There is a real hesitance -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There is a bit.

45 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** - on the part of people to touch artefacts. Now, it travels I think from New South Wales, because there is some - I don't - this is the funny thing, I don't know anything really about other - anything out the court.

All my knowledge is here. Because as a - I grew up and all I did is spend time in the bay. I went spear fishing.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Do you want to look at it?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's okay.

KEIR DERNELLEY: The thing is, this one - so -

10 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** What is that? Is that wood?

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, that's wood. Now, can I just say a funny thing here. That -

15 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** So where did you find these?

KEIR DERNELLEY: Everywhere. Look, I seriously - I could take you for a walk, brother, and I could show you some of the most amazing things. I swear. It's in my grandfather.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Perception.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yes. Now, these don't - no, they are not mine. Now, this is the important - very important thing. Is I'm simply - we - everyone are custodians of these things that have been left behind. But these things tell a massive story.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

30 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Now, I've got - I've got all these quite a controversial contention, and it is one of the truths that forms the central trunk that - see, you said before it's - what it is, is truth is constantly evolving with knowledge. Okay. And not - knowledge is what - like sunlight on the leaves, right. It - perhaps -

35 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Say that again?

KEIR DERNELLEY: So sunlight - sorry, I meant to say, sorry, that the information, people's truths, they are the water that feed the roots. Because those truths go up through the trunk and feed the leaves.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** So I've got a question.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yes.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Well, I've got a sort of thought. So there's - so there's a psychological reality or you know, that we are all collectively are holding and we all have. But then there's - there's a difference or there's a distinction between that and existential truths.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Exactly.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So the things that we come up with in our brains could be completely separate to the actual reality.

5

KEIR DERNELLEY: They are subjective. I mean, what - your own truth is.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Does that make sense?

10 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yes, just to add - what you are saying is put it this way: that your own truth - everyone's own truth, it's their truth. You can't - it's like -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's their story.

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** That's their flower. That's the flower on the tree. Right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But that evolves, doesn't it. What you are saying is that evolves over time. Like as you grow and develop and you evolve as a person, then the story that you have about life or about yourself can change itself.

20

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, I am a totally different person to the absolute arsehole rogue I was when I left Melbourne Grammar.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's good. It means you have evolved.

25

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, what doesn't kill you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can make you stronger.

30 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Okay. I've been on a 15 year -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can I say crush too.

KEIR DERNELLEY: You can, but -

35

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's how you respond to it.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It is. Look I was addicted - I had a car accident in '97, got, you know, a chronic back injury. Got addicted to morphine, had a 15 year morphine addiction. You wouldn't believe the dose I was on. (Indistinct) I was on 30 milligram of - - -

40

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So did you transform that? Did you change that?

45 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yes. I've been off it for - I made my 10 year mark. So 1 per cent of - so 1 per cent of people make it to 10 years, I made it to 10 years back in October - on October 19 last year.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good on you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Well done.

5 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** No, I am very proud of that and it's - the hardest thing I have ever done. Because honestly, it was just -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You were stuck in a hole.

10 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** It's a - you know, it's - look, addiction is - I understand it. I have seen it first-hand - I have experienced it first-hand.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's solo.

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** And there is nothing to be ashamed of because it is something, if you are an addict you shouldn't be ashamed of it. It's a health issue. But unfortunately, no, that's - I don't want to diverge here, but living in Footscray and mixing with those people, I bumped into, you know, a couple of really - well, nice
 20 Aboriginal blokes and we hit it off. But they just broke my heart to see just how quickly they - they come - I don't know where they come from. I don't want to say his name. He - he come from New South Wales but he was clean, and I just - I watch people take the slide, and of course having gone through like a 15 year opioid
 25 addiction, going cold turkey on it, I got (indistinct) so, like, I know. But I guess what I'm saying is, this bloke, you know, he's just - I don't know, it's just something. I get, there's - it's not an innocence, it's just, you know, when I see immediately I felt a connection with you. I felt a connection with you. Just a - it's a welcome here. That's welcoming. It's just like how my grandfather was. I can't explain it, it's not something I can put into words. But go back to. - I think where were we?

30 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** You were going to tell us about two events in your childhood, I think, that really were important.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Two events. So my grandfather was quite eccentric. You know, we used to drive to school along St Kilda Road and my gran was always at
 35 him about going out because he would wear a grey work coat when he did work. He had a bad toe so he cut the end out of the shoes out of his toes - out of the end of his shoe. He didn't really - when he needed to dress up, Gran got him organised. He looked smooth, right. But he just didn't really - so we were - we used to drive to school on St Kilda Road, and mum would go, "Oh, my God! That's - that's Everett.
 40 That's your grandfather. Look at him!" Right. And he did look like - and anyway, look. The thing is, as I said, the issue of Aboriginality was just something that just - I don't know, I mean I didn't - I did know a couple of Aboriginal kids but I didn't know they were Aboriginal because it was all kept secret. Children of the Stolen
 45 Generation that I grew up with. Now, so - but thing two things happened. One was, I remember - it was about - it was 1978, so I was 10 and we went to Sydney. We stayed in a nice hotel. Went down - there was Aboriginal artists. I don't know - I don't know Sydney that well, but it was around near the bay.

And, anyway, there was an Aboriginal - so there was different artists and there was an Aboriginal artist, and I was just obsessed by the boomerangs that he made. And anyway - I was the most annoying child. I just would not give up. I just nagged and nagged and nagged my parents until they bought me a boomerang. You know, they said look it probably won't fly, you know, because it's a piece of artwork. And the guy said no, it flies. But I just couldn't get it to fly. It drove me nuts. Honestly, it was - but I have to - I had to make it fly. I got my dad, right, he couldn't make it fly. So anyway, my grandfather - now look, I was a kid. I remember he was an old man, but he was probably about my age maybe a little bit older. So he must have got special permission for this, all right. I think he did. Again, and he just - said throw it for us. I threw it and it went into the ground. I just burst into tears. And back then there was nothing else (indistinct) hard dirt. And - but there was a mound there and he goes, have another - just have another go. Now, this time, lick your finger put it on the end of the nose, find the wind. Where is the wind coming from? It's got to be right in your face. (Cries). So I'm - you know, crying my arse off, sitting on the ground, and I thought, no, it will just - all tied up with my own sadness. And I turned around and my grandfather was standing on the mound, right, and he just got the boomerang and - I was just like what the fuck? It was like someone - -- something just had - and he just - it went so smoothly. Boom, boom, boom. Boom. And come in. Boom. He clutched it in his hands.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Wow.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Now, but he - he actually could throw two at a time.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Two at a time.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: How does that go, two hands or one.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, one. So it's one. Goes out. Throws. And then leads to - hits the return point and then throws the other, catches it. Look, it was something - and I went. So then I was just blown away by it. But now I'm thinking, how did you know how to do that? Right. How did you know?

Look, these stories are a little bit out of order, but how funny is this, right. Now, he was always very careful. So he walked the dog every day and he always took a stick with him, right. And he kept his sticks in sort of - in a PVC or tin pipe, and I remember, you know, but he knows - was always very careful. They got to - now, we never really sort of were allowed to touch them or anything. And mainly because Gran didn't want us to, right. But I think the funny thing was, that when I got those sticks they were bundis.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bundis. Nulla nullas.

KEIR DERNELLEY: I can throw a bundi (indistinct) 30 feet. But they were actually (indistinct) I can't use my bundi arm, but lucky I'm ambidextrous. So worst case scenario I can do it left-handed no worries. But I love bundis. And you know, thinking to myself - so I didn't really like boomerangs because it was a hassle. I could throw one, I practised and it was not that day but I was still so blown away by what he had done, I was like - and -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That would have been amazing to watch. Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, it was so cool. Just watching. He is an old man, you know. What's he going to do? But, you know, it was so cool. And he was so wise. Without - so we would go fishing and he would say, like where are the - where are we going to go fishing? He would say to me, where do you want to go? And I would say, I don't know. And he would say, go there, the birds . I would say why? Because that's where the fish are. And what he would do, I was hyperactive, so he was trying to teach me patience. But I'm still learning it. He - to keep my mind going he - on the beach all the little pebbles were actually Aboriginal artefacts, right.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Like beads or -

KEIR DERNELLEY: No. No, they were axe and spears. So they were everywhere. And he showed me the difference what they were (indistinct) because what he didn't say axe or spearheads, because he didn't want the word to get - yeah, granddad - Pop showed me about axes and spearheads. So he said - we talked about flicking two. We would - I would get them, collect them while he tried to enjoy fishing, and then he - we would skim them on water. And the axe heads and the spearheads spun different ways. And - so I spent that amount - as I said, I've got a tattoo, (indistinct) got my (indistinct) on the spectrum but any - any barrister (indistinct) Alan Dickson chambers, with all due respect to Alan Dickson chambers is a sheltered workshop for people with autism. (Indistinct) I don't think - one of the things that I'm good at is patterns. So I can see patterns in financial statements, patterns in law, but most importantly you just. (Indistinct) rocks and they were - and I see the shapes. I love the shapes. You know. That shape there, right, that is so special. That curve. Right. It - because it - so I've told you about -

I will just quickly before I bring out my show and tell, my first experience is an Aboriginal man was in grade 2. Now, look, really I was a massive problem child. Right. I couldn't read, I couldn't write. I only learnt to properly read, write and comprehend in my mid 30s when I did postgraduate law degree. My dad taught me, but I was always, you know, getting chucked out of class and sent to the headmaster and, you know, there was about five of us and one day we got sent outside. It was a nice day, it must have been like Autumn, I think. But nice weather. And we were sitting out there. And anyway, a teacher came out and introduced this guy. And, you know, we were all fighting and messing around. And I turned around and looked at him. He was black and I just went Oh, my God. I sort of compared him to my dad, you know, in my head. My Pop. And my dad is six foot six. He was - just something about this guy, right, that blew me away. It was - he was big, right. And he was quiet

and calm. He was well dressed. And, now, I can't remember - I don't think we were told that he was Aboriginal, we were never told why he was there. He was there to help us make boomerangs.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay.

KEIR DERNELLEY: He wasn't allowed to throw a boomerang, which is nuts. I mean, I just say, it was all very weird. Now, this went on for probably six - each - so I would really look forward to it. And he could see, I don't know, no problems.

10 Anyway, but, look, I - it's - what I learnt was that, you know, this guy had amazing information but he was - he couldn't say this, he couldn't say that. And I think looking back he wasn't there voluntarily. He had been sent there as a punishment, probably for some summary offence. Like drunk and disorderly or not having 50 cents in his pocket and being destitute (indistinct) now, it's terribly humiliating. He was such a strong, powerful man and going to the school. You know, and being told, "You can't say this, you can't say that". And one day he turns up and I didn't know this, but someone said he's acting weird.

Someone said to the teacher he's acting weird. Anyway, but he come pissed. I got really upset, you know, that I couldn't understand it. So anyway, everyone went back into class. I ran around the side of school and I hid. The principal and the phys ed teacher were holding him at the kerb and they were roughing him up. And not the principal, it was the PE teacher. And he was - he wasn't an aggressive drunk, he was just, you know, a big guy. He could toss both of them away in a second. But he was a bit uneasy on his feet. Anyway, they - he - they were waiting for the police and the phys ed teacher - I can remember (indistinct) punched him in the stomach and I hadn't really seen violence before and it made me sick. And, you know, I just - I didn't understand what was happening. I didn't understand being drunk, I didn't understand being black, I didn't understand why he was there. But I just - he was - I just feel that he was - he still had his pride and was being slowly knocked out of him. And you know, the -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That would have been very disappointing to have.

35 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** It's just something that stuck in my mind. It's a way - it runs in my head. Because I felt like I was going to vomit when the phys ed teacher punched him. It's just - I hadn't experienced violence. There was no family violence, there was just - it was just shocking and, you know, really felt, like sort of, I felt like shouting it out, but I couldn't - nothing came out. It was like I was winded. But anyway, I watched them load him into a police car and take him away. And it was really sad. But, look, I think, sorry, I personally have a love for the Kulin and I - I spend so much time - I think - I think my service is bundi rescue. Bundi rescue. Because I go around and finding bundis that are rotting and save them. I - you know, building (indistinct) he was - what I found is there is the truth, a lot of the truth lies in things like that are under our feet.

And that the truth about - well, I have told my truth, but there's a more important truth that I want to understand, that I think is a truth that is - well, what you call it in law is a foundational truth. Okay. So like you say, it's - it's something that probably most people that are - agree on. Now -

5

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: From my understanding you can't understand that truth but we can experience it.

KEIR DERNELLEY: That's right. It's only - only if you - no it's like a fuel gauge. It's like a fuel gauge. Now, if you go along to court and do an IVO, nine times out of 10 the truth lies in the middle. So -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It's - it's getting to the truth is sometimes - look, there's information or truths, if you want to call them truths or information, that you find along the way, you know, if you find something like a case that is - supports your case perfectly. That's authority for your argument. That's golden. So let's - you know, what I'm saying is, that it - these - all of everyone's truths feed into the bigger truth and the - that's the tree trunk, okay. Now, as the trunk grows so does the foliage, right. Now, the roots are under the ground, right. And the truth, there's - there is a fundamental question that I think needs answering that underpins all other truths. And that is - so the English, I think they have to compensate us in a major way. It was nice for the government to say sorry, but - that's good of them, but what for? I mean, they have done a lot of things. They can apologise since - like for all the conduct since 1901 when we were - the Constitution - I think - became a federation, right. But I think that the truths can only be properly framed and underpinned when we know the truth of how the English took this country. Okay.

Now, if they had some right, well the truths they are just unfortunate hardship that people had to suffer, and really they are the cost of doing business. I'm being harsh as harsh. But you know, if they took it unlawfully that's a completely different story.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

35

KEIR DERNELLEY: Now my argument is this: so the law is if you take over a country, if - so say it's terra nullius, because that gives you the option of saying - do you know the question that their ownership or their - they argue they colonised the place. Now, look, if they colonised it, this is - these are the legal fictions. This is what I'm saying, the justice system - these are legal fictions. Now, the fiction is that if you take a close (indistinct) if you settle it common law place, if you conquest it their law stays in place. Right. Now, the English, they were in a spot, they were desperate. They had to get rid of - look, my first relative here was a convict. He (indistinct) they had prisoners sitting in the hulks. They were desperate. America had been closed off as a penal colony so they had to get into New South Wales. But they needed to get into Victoria because that had to feed New South Wales.

45

But, look, my argument is this: now, look I'm just speaking just in terms of the Kulin, but I suggest what they did was that when they came to Victoria - they already knew when they came to Australia there was a good chance that their diseases would probably, you know, make people sick. They just probably didn't know to what extent because they had done it before.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It happened in South America quite fully, so.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It's the first biological war - biological war. Attack - I can't remember who, but in 1433. It's been going a long time. But let's just assume English. Now, they dealt with the plague - okay. Let's assume before they came to the Kulin they didn't know that (indistinct) but they did, of course they did. But still they come down to the Kulin. Now the Kulin is the most inhabited place in - it has got - 24,000 people living in the Kulin. It's tightly (indistinct) and they come and introduce it as a - that wipes an untold number of people out. It's - now, then they - they enslave people. That - that - could I just say that I just need to take a brain break.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Just wait - I just want to say, what - I brought my bag of goodies because in there explains that they did not settle in, they conquered it. The locals fought them like buggery. And I'm telling you, look, I am going to call them my ancestors. I don't - you know what, that's my truth. I feel that. And I - I'm trying - I'm not trying to be, like, in any way grandiose or sort of superior, but I really feel the spirits. They don't talk to me, right. But, you know, sometimes I will go to pick something up and I will say - it's just - they don't say anything. I just feel like, "don't touch that". You know, I will pick it up and I will put it back because it doesn't want to be moved. And I say like if I said this to most people, to be honest, I'm getting to the point where I don't really care, but they would think I'm mad. But I feel something in - in the artefacts that are being left behind.

Not just that, I see the war that's gone on. I see bundis that have been taken to with an axe, that have been burnt. Now, I lived in Footscray, I think the site I lived on was - at some point has been some sort of uprising. And it's been bloody. Now, there's a very weird thing, and before I - if we could have a break and then come back and I will just show you the things that I believe point to the fact that this was not - the Kulin was - no way is it - it wasn't settled, it was conquered. Now, it's a lie - terra nullius, it's a legal fiction. It means, you know Latin. Terra, land; nullius, nothing. But it is - if is people living there that - you know. You know, settlement means - I don't mean this disrespectfully, but Welcome to Country - look, I remember when my grandfather saw it on television he had a giggle.

Because the thing is that Welcome to Country is an affirmation of settlement. We never welcomed. They came here, they could come on to the land, but we - I just want to say is that they were never welcomed to settle to take over our land.

And that - I think that the stories and the artefacts that have been left behind, and the knowledge that is becoming available points directly to the fact that it was conquered. Now, if it was conquered that means that they erred, they made the wrong call. Because they made the call, remember. Not a court. They said, okay,
 5 terra nullius, settling, common law. They couldn't have done the same thing if - if they had to tell people they needed to conquer it because Aboriginal law, law of the (indistinct) and people - I think - now, if we know the English - sorry, the problem with terra nullius is probably it not a bad - I mean, that's not a bad argument, okay. It's not true, because five nations, political system, they (indistinct) to force every
 10 year to make decisions about how to share resources.

How to settle battles. They had a fully cultured society. That is the antithesis of terra nullius. It is densely populated. It's a dream. I mean, you have the ocean, you have - before they blew the falls up near Crown Casino you had a beautiful freshwater
 15 estuary that was an amazing hunting ground. That - now, blowing up the falls, well that made the entire river tidal. So it just changed. It wrecked the estuary and it wrecked (indistinct) it infected the water with salt and it put too much fresh water in the - sort of wrecked it. Now that was like, I don't know, such prime hunting ground. Mangroves, swamps. You could walk low tide from one side, from - Wurundjeri Woi
 20 Wurrung across to - pardon my pronunciation, you could walk across the other side which was Bunurong on the other side. And there was a very close relationship between those peoples.

Yeah. I from what I - everything that I have seen, it's just put it this way, I wasn't
 25 really taught much about Aboriginal culture at school, it was pretty much down to yeah, the Aboriginals just wandered around. They were sort of happy people, they didn't really fight. They were, you know, just basically nomadic and wandered around the desert. Now, that's - that's the truth, honestly. A lot of my age groups growing up - what I'm saying is, look, let's just leave it for a little while, but all I'm
 30 saying is the truth that underpins all other truths is whether you were conquered. Because we didn't just lie down. And - no, we didn't, we really didn't. And got so many things to say.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think that's a pretty established truth.
 35

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, it's not. That's the problem because -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well in our community it is an established truth.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah. Come on, yeah.
 40

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, I mean that.

KEIR DERNELLEY: You know, bundi, I have got some ugly ones in there. Not
 45 worse signs, but they were warring and fighting sticks. And I will emphasise fighting. Sorry, hunting not warring. Look, these guys, they could fight. No shit. I mean -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They just didn't have the same weaponry, did they, as them.

5 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Well, let's - I'm - I want to show you some things that - let's just look at the weaponry that they had when we come back. And to talk about whether we think that this - the truth is something that isn't just about us and what we believe, our people, but the truth is something that needs to be more broadly accepted. Because if the English government, it turns out they - they ripped us off and stole our land by creating a lie under their justice system, which just creates
10 some legal fiction, you know if it turns out that they took it on that basis -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They did that in a lot of places, haven't they.

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** I know but they won't even give remains back. They gave the spears back, well no, we want everything back, plus we want proper compensation. Because the difference is, that in America well they admitted. There was no - the problem here is that the victors get to write the truth, the story. They tell it their way. Now, they have told people a load of bullshit about how they got the country.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** That's right.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, they - the war that went on when they tried to cross Australia as in what was it Adelaide to Sydney for the - to make the road? Seriously. I do think that it's important - it's an important fundamental truth that really is - is the core. Because that's the hardest bit of the tree, right. But it's the unconscionable, despicable conduct that has led to all these other truths. It underpins. It - so if I say
25 yeah, my grandfather was taken off for a year and a half, but they say they paid him. He never got a cent, my grandmother never got a cent. She was left with a baby to look after, I know. Now, it's - it's - it's not that people have to believe, it's people - we
30 are all part of the Kulin now, and I guess my point is, is that it's not - sorry, pardon the pun, a black and white issue. It's an issue for all people of the Kulin to deal with. And it's to do with the environment.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because the - the lies perpetuate the pain and suffering that people - that we find ourselves in. Not just the Aboriginal community, but all the community. This - this world is - this society is very sick because of the foundation of how this society - how it's been created. And also because they removed a lot of the ancient wisdom of the spiritual process. And also the culture as well, of sharing and caring and being connected -
40

KEIR DERNELLEY: Remember.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: - to nature as well. We see it as a source of who we are not a resource. The soil, the trees and all things, right.
45

KEIR DERNELLEY: Exactly. I didn't get around to it but I wanted to make - no, I agree with you so much.

Because one very important thing is, see my grandfather used to always tell me the story. He never used to use Bunjil, he just called it the wise eagle. Now a story about Bunjil.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Bunjil and Waa. Waa is the other.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, that's right, but he had -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bunjil is the masculine and Waa is the feminine.

10

KEIR DERNELLEY: The ying and the yang.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The ying and the yang. The balance.

15 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** So he was sent down here by his father. It was a bit of a shit hole when he got here, but like a salt pan, earlier he just - it was like - 10,000. This is the thing, 10,000 years ago, just 10,000 years ago they didn't exist. It was a big salt pan and when it rained the water went into the salt pain. It was the volcanos. Western basalt plain. They formed the bottom of the - yeah, the - they formed the bottom of
20 the bay so it can hold water. But it just - massive salt pan before.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Really?

25 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yeah if you ever want to check it, go down to the power station, and where they dug the trench out they went down 10 metres. And when you pick the stones up, just like you just break them in half and you can still see the salt. And it's just - that's all. It's just a - so it was the volcanos that great divide - well, Warrawong, it's a big one in Torquey, extinct volcano. But that was shooting out what's called missiles that were reaching Melbourne. The flow, mate, it went for a
30 long time.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Wow.

35 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** But, look, we have been through a lot of things, man. We have been through megaflora, fauna. Look, for - I - there are just signs, the truth about it (indistinct) because I think this needs to become a societal truth. That we don't - really, I think we deserve to be compensated. And it's - we want some of our own resources. We don't want to have to rely on the government for handouts, and we deserve that, right, because we've been ripped off. Now, look, I'm just saying,
40 that England has a lot to answer for.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

45 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** The fact that they are prosperous today is only because they found a prison to put all their scumbags in. Seriously. Where were they going to put them? You know. You know, no one really cared about them, but they did - they weren't really happy with sort of, you know, knocking people off for stealing bread.

You know, you would have to steal probably a fish or something like that to get - but anyway, it's - I have got this - really I've got a weird perspective because genuinely, my first relative here was a young man who was rounded up in - this is what I understand - rounded up in a potato farm - sorry, rounded up cotton mill riots, and they were trying to stop it and they couldn't. And the bosses were hassling the politicians - you have got to stop it, you have got to stop it. So what they did was they went around and arrested six boys. Now, isn't that interesting? My grandfather went around Australia with six boys rights, there were six of them. And six boys got rounded up and they were all the young people in the towns. All the apprentices. They shipped them off. And that killed - so it meant, like - I guess it tore the future life because who else is going to be a blacksmith besides a blacksmith's son? Right. And they took them and deported them. And -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: As prisoners.

KEIR DERNELLEY: So -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Did any prisoners survive?

KEIR DERNELLEY: So my relative, my relative was held at - so he was convicted of righteous behaviour. Which I think is pretty funny because I'm pretty righteous, going, but righteous behaviour with his mate, sent for deportation. But they didn't have anywhere to send him. So he sat in the hulks which were the old ships, bordered and they just cracked. We -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, they ran out of prison space. They put them on the River Thames didn't they?

KEIR DERNELLEY: He lived two years in the hulks. And just very quickly, because it's not really - it's just - he got deported out here. The villagers got together, sent a politician to Queen Victoria. Took one, it took 88 signatures but that was a lot because society was - you know - and anyway, the boys got royal pardons. One of them - a few royal pardons. And they just granted but they couldn't come back. So he was given ground to plant. Set up a farm, and was a bit of a rogue, I think. He went down at the time shortage of wives. So they - the farmers were going down to the Cobb and Co station, and proposing to women getting off the coaches. So they would come down to be employed by the gentry, and the gentry were complaining because they were being ripped off at the - anyway.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is that in Victoria or in New South Wales that that was - that they were farming, that your ancestor farmed?

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, the Gippsland.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In the Gippsland, okay.

KEIR DERNELLEY: And then the - I don't know what happened. It ended up with 29 children, grandchildren - built up quite an incredible world. But my - his ingenuity, he went down to - he set up a pub next to the Cobb and Co coach station, Camberwell Junction.

5

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Camberwell Junction, cool.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It was -

10

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have got to use the bathroom.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, it's all good.

15

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Do we want to take break? You said you wanted to take a break.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, I mean I don't -

20

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We can give it a bit of a pause.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No just take your -

25

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Maybe we can leave it there for today because I do have something on at 12.30. We said we would go to 12.30, is that right?

KEIR DERNELLEY: That's okay. If you want to - the thing is if you want to hear more them I'm more than happy to come back. If you are interested. But if you are not that's - I understand.

30

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, that's fine. I - we are here until 12.30 so you are right.

KEIR DERNELLEY: I told you enough, I guess -

35

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well we have recorded it and, you know, we will hand this on to the team to sort of, you know, look at in regards to how they can prepare that, I guess. And -

40

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We will get a transcript from this that will be your story that you have spoken about today. And then you can agree or not agree to if you would like it stored, published; all the rest of it.

45

KEIR DERNELLEY: Just quickly. Anyway because this - actually, let's - that's my exhibition but I do have another - do you think we could possibly meet again for just one morning, because - and what I want to talk about is, I guess, kids, their future. And it's kids - and fascinated my - fossils. But most spears, some spearheads are made out of fossils. Right. And what I am saying is, that what I found is fascinating.

And really, but it's just under people's feet and they don't know. Normally - you see, I can - what I want to show you is just how easy it is to identify what - and, look, the point is, in Victoria every school has a different clan who live there. Their story. Look, I have been to - it bugs me. They like to think - knowledge is the Wurundjeri people. No way were we - no. I'm not politically correct like that. You know, it's - all I'm saying is, look, I've got (indistinct)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

10 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Because this, now I found that in Diamond Road. People don't seem to be able to throw these away. Now, I can tell you I haven't washed it or - it's just I have kept it dry. Now, what this is, it is a bundi, right. Now, bundis, right, I think every child should know how to throw a bundi, I think it should be our national sport. I'm not going to chuck it but it was held like that, right. No, it was probably actually held like here.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Right. Is it burnt at the bottom. Is that the charcoal?

20 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yeah, right I've got more. See, this is the thing. See I've got things that have been - I guess, just -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes. Interesting.

25 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Have a look. I just - this is - I do know how to work out how to throw it. It took me ages, right. But it is thrown like this. Right. It is thrown like -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yep.

30 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Okay. And, you know, so what I wanted to say is someone has tried to (indistinct) you need to go. But I just - I wanted - look, and I have - that was balsawood and I saved it by using glue, but I know it looks bizarre, but what it is, it's a bundi.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Right.

35 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** So the thing is, I can tell you what each different type of bundi is used for. Where it came from, because I remembered - I've got hundreds of them. Don't hesitate to - right. I have got that is - no, no. Look. Look at this. Look. So, that will - that's about as big as they get. And -

40

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Here you go. Thanks.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Cheers. So (inaudible) the way this flies, (indistinct)

45 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Good hand-eye coordination, hey. Practising.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, I can crack a whip, because this is - and I learnt how to do this.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

5

KEIR DERNELLEY: This is what I'm passionate about. This is what I love. And this - I would love to share my knowledge. Because I'm not - you know, I have hit my head a few times and been knocked out pretty badly, right. But I am - what I'm wanting to say is I can tell you the difference between -

10

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That looks very smooth, doesn't it.

KEIR DERNELLEY: They go from humongous -

15

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It is interesting here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's a - that's a - that's a -

KEIR DERNELLEY: Check that.

20

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A bone and spear, isn't it?

KEIR DERNELLEY: This is my -

25

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Boomerang?

KEIR DERNELLEY: What it is, this is the - it goes like this. So flat side, always to left. Always to left at 1 o'clock. (Indistinct) like that. Point your finger, right, and when you throw it, pop and you - all bomp, take that. And if you can throw that you can throw anything. It's the little ones that are hard to throw. The big ones like that, I mean, you just check them and they are going to - but I just wanted to quickly show you that. This, that - sorry, I just - that's how they go. You know, look, I can show you how it works.

30

35

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What is a -

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, I just want to show you this very quickly. I have got the foot. Now, look at - the thing is, I'm not a nut case, so -

40

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It feels like a strange - did you put - has that got glue on it?

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, that's - no.

45

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's got a feeling of wood but not wood. It is interesting.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, that's it because that's - look, the thing is, that all I'm saying is these - I've got heaps of items that have been chucked in the fire.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** It's almost like it's been slightly petrified.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's got a little bit of a - but it actually comes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It has been aged or bark or something.

10 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Check this. Now, they are trying to burn these. But they didn't understand them. So they didn't burn the handle, and that wood was so hard it didn't burn. These have been sitting out in the sun for Christ knows how long.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Can I put those ones in?

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah, of course you can. I just want to show you this. Now, that's a bundi. Now you can always tell which end it is thrown by because it's the way the - so see the bits that stick out, they always point forward. And I will just show you how it's thrown.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** It has got little notches in it. I hope that's not the death count. Five notches.

25 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** These things were meant to kill people.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Take this one out. Can I have a look at that?

30 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** That's a fire stone. Sorry, what you do, is you get your bundi, because they are just a multi-purpose tool, and in there. And you put a little bit of grass and green dry grass and you rub the bundi in there and it heats up.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. And then it creates fire.

35 **KEIR DERNELLEY:** Yeah. Like so that's a small one.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Like that.

KEIR DERNELLEY: I found ones that are whole - like tribal, with like 10 spots.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Actually we are talking about fires this afternoon in the panel.

KEIR DERNELLEY: See, I - discovered a fire - an Aboriginal.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** If you just go like that you can feel fire in your hands. That's how they create it. That's right. Friction.

KEIR DERNELLEY: What they do, so they get a stick, but the thing is, your bundi was never, ever out of your reach. No, really, just it was a multi-purpose tool, right. The different bundis do different things, right. So some bundis - so that spearhead you were looking at.

5

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Especially when there is megafauna around. You have to have the bundi nearby.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Didn't the women use them and the men to get the roots from underneath. Like they used theirs -

10

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A digging -

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A digging stick.

15

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A digging implement as well. A multi-faceted tool.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Like it was -

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Like a Swiss -

20

KEIR DERNELLEY: Unfortunately I actually - when I was working as a barrister I did a case where an Aboriginal guy beat his wife to death with a stick. And I said - it was referred to as a waddie. I said to my lawyer, what's a waddie? Because I'm just thinking a stick to kill someone? He said, "It's just a bloody stick that abos use". That's interesting. So, I looked - sort of got fascinated with it. But I'm - what I'm saying is that every, you know, single area and - sorry, the thing is, they - that has got a coating on it because some of them are viable and some of them have lost their integrity.

25

30

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: But, look, this - what I'm trying to say, that is a determination to stop. Isn't it? I mean, look, I'm saying the burning of them - so that one - look, I've got so many burnt ones. I've got one that was burnt and stamped on. But look at this. This is - I've got a couple of - this is Mr Evil, right, really. So, but we are talking about people, we just went back - come on, you know. It's pretty crowded here. Right. No, right. This, really, a sign. But this is - this has got a coating on it. But this, look at this. Just - just last one. I'm sorry. But this is - that's what my, you know - but this is - my house - look -

35

40

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This is your passion.

KEIR DERNELLEY: I have got - I - my goal - these things - it's the detail. So just two seconds.

45

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Have a look. Now, look at where it's been held. You see. Do you see?

5 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** What I'm noticing is that this was broken off something and then over time it smoothed out, you know. Where at one point you wouldn't be able to run your hand over that without getting a splinter.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** But maybe water has run over it.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Or they have moulded it that way.

KEIR DERNELLEY: If I show these to the museum, if I show these to the museum, they go oh yeah, water. That's - that's - look at this. Right. Now, that is where a person has held it. That's the balance point.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Yeah, yeah.

KEIR DERNELLEY: It was held for so long. Now, that it gets thrown, right - don't worry darling, I'm not - I won't hurt anyone. I'm quite experienced at these things. I only killed one dog.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Killed one dog.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, no.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Really?

KEIR DERNELLEY: Look, he was going to die anyway. No, not really. Really, I do - I have got to admit -

35 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Hey. I think I - we do have to go now. But it was lovely meeting you.

KEIR DERNELLEY: Yeah.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** And it was lovely seeing your passion and hearing your story.

KEIR DERNELLEY: So this is the question. I know you have got to go.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** Thank you. Can I put that back in there?

KEIR DERNELLEY: I know you've got to go, but what I'm saying is how do I share the knowledge and passion that - I mean, how - because the question is that I'm just - this is - I know you have got to go. The truth is, that -

5 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE:** I'm just going to stop it now. I'm going to stop recording if that's all right.

KEIR DERNELLEY: No, that's fine. Look, all I'm saying.

10 **<THE RECORDING CONCLUDED**