

## MISSING FOR A DECADE

# Krystal Fraser mystery

## Ongoing probe into her disappearance

JENNY DENTON

POLICE say an investigation is continuing into the disappearance of Pyramid Hill woman Krystal Fraser a decade ago, with a reward of \$100,000 still on offer for information leading to the conviction of the person or people responsible for her death.

On Thursday it will be 10 years since the heavily pregnant 23-year-old disappeared from her home town.

The last trace of Krystal, who had no independent means of transport, was a signal from her mobile phone travelling towards Leitchville at 3am on June 21, 2009.

Earlier in the evening, she had left maternity accommodation attached to the Bendigo hospital, where she was expected to give birth within days, and caught the last train back to Pyramid Hill, arriving at about 8.40pm.

She was last seen alive by acquaintances at a house in Albert Street, which she left at around 9.30pm.

Mobile phone records show she received a call from the phone box outside the Leitchville post office in Findlay Street shortly before midnight and then surfed the net from 1.30am to 3am.

Her phone was not used again and has not been located.

Her purse was found in her Kelly Street flat, along with bags of nappies and baby clothes.

Her bank accounts haven't been accessed since her disappearance.

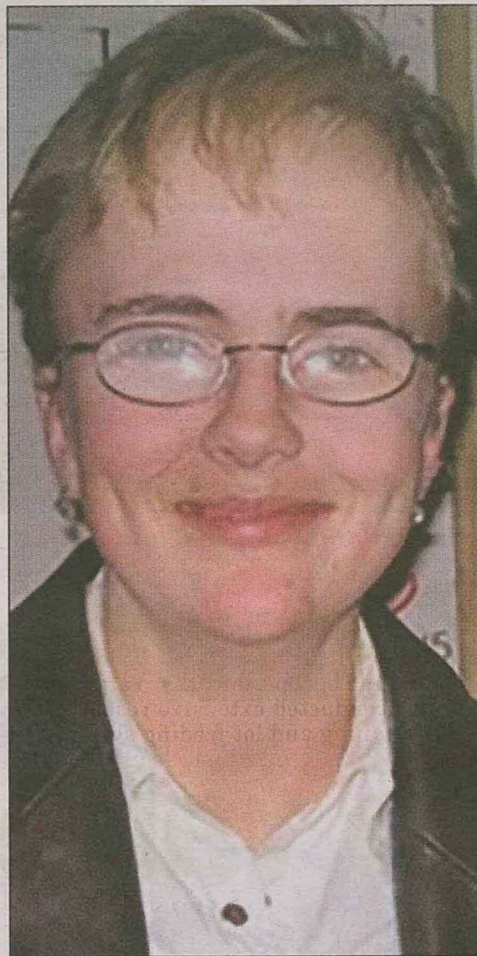
Krystal, who has been described as having the mental age of a young teenager, probably had Asperger's syndrome, according to her mother.

When she first went missing police entertained the idea that she could have run away because she feared her baby would be taken from her, but they soon concluded she had met with foul play.

In February last year, detectives arrested a 61-year-old man from Pyramid Hill, but he was subsequently released and deemed to be no longer a person of interest in the case.

When she was last seen, Krystal was wearing an orange top, black tracksuit pants and a camouflage-patterned baseball cap.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at: [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au).



KRISTAL FRASER

## Webster confirmed

ANNE Webster has been confirmed as the new Federal Member for Mallee after the completion of counting by the Australian Electoral Commission.

Dr Webster will continue the representation by The Nationals after being elected to succeed Andrew Broad.

Mallee is the final division in the Commonwealth to be declared, a month after the Federal election returned the Coalition. and I am delighted that Anne Webster and The National have crossed the line

Nationals federal president, Larry Anthony thanked the voters of Mallee for their patience and trust in strongly endorsing Dr Webster and the re-election of the Morrison-McCormack Government.

"Election can't be fought without a passionate team supporting a candidate, and I want to congratulate all our volunteers and supporters who put on a yellow t-shirt and lent a hand to help Anne and the team," he said.

"There was no task too big or small for our volunteers. Rain, hail, dust storms or shine, they delivered flyers, knocked on doors, erected signs and waved corflutes on the main street of town."

Mr Anthony also thanked all the other Mallee candidates and their volunteers for their efforts and their conduct in what was a hard fought, but good-natured campaign.

Mallee had a record 13 candidates.

"Our Federal team are looking forward to Anne joining the party room in Canberra and getting on with the job of delivering on our election commitments," he said.

"Our Party has a proud history representing this part of regional Victoria, and I am confident that Anne will continue to be a passionate voice for everyone in Mallee."

# Everyone knew her and she knew them

JENNY DENTON

KRYSTAL Fraser was a popular identity around Pyramid Hill.

"We all knew her. She was that kind of kid. Everyone knew Krystal," says local resident Kim Lister.

"It didn't matter what age you were. Just everyone knew her and she knew them. She'd meet somebody once and she'd know their name the next time she ran into them."

"She was a very warm, caring girl. I used to own the pub and every Friday and Saturday night she'd be sitting in there chatting to everyone. And she was always offering to help. Unload the groceries or whatever you were doing. She was a good kid."

The Fraser family had moved to the area from Melbourne when Krystal was in grade one, first living on a farm at Mincha, then shifting into town.

Krystal went to Pyramid Hill College then Boort Secondary College, where she finished a modified Year

## Whoever's keeping the secret needs to come clean because somebody knows something.

12 course.

According to her mum, Karen Fraser, Krystal probably had Asperger's syndrome.

Mrs Fraser was in the process of arranging to have her diagnosed when Krystal turned 18, but her daughter "didn't want to know about it."

"She thought she was fine! There was nothing wrong with her," Mrs Fraser says.

Her daughter loved Christmas and birthdays and music of all kinds, she says.

She had an incredible memory and knew everything there was to know about the celebrities she was interested in.

She loved her family and was very family-oriented.

"She kept in touch with everyone and was the one who remembered

everyone's birthdays," Mrs Fraser says.

"She loved her brother and sister, she loved her grandpa and grandma, she loved her cousins. She just loved everybody. Everybody was wonderful."

"And it didn't matter where you went, everybody knew her."

But in some ways, Krystal was a private person.

"A baseball cap, a big windcheater and baggy pants - that's all she ever wore. I don't know if she thought she'd blend in better. She had beautiful clothes hanging up but she never wore them," Mrs Fraser says.

Krystal had her own flat and lived her own life, often travelling between stops on the train line between Swan Hill and Bendigo, where she knew people.

Her daughter had friends "from all walks of life", Mrs Fraser says, who weren't welcome in the family home.

She had sexual partners she never spoke about.

A contraceptive implant in her arm had apparently been broken when the doctor fitted it, Mrs Fraser said, and Krystal was "22 weeks' gone" when she found out she was pregnant.

She was "ecstatic" about it, although she said she didn't know who the father was.

Although there had been discussions about her pregnancy with the Department of Human Services, there was no suggestion Krystal would be separated from the baby and no reason for her to run away, her mother says.

Karen Fraser was to have legal guardianship and would never have

kept the baby from his mother.

In any case, Krystal wasn't capable, practically or emotionally, of deliberately disappearing, says Mrs Fraser, who sometimes received several calls a day from her.

"It's not possible."

"If she was alive, she would've contacted me. I know that for a fact. I know it with every bone in my body," she says.

Police have described the investigation as "a waiting game" but Krystal's family and others who cared about her wonder if the wait will ever end.

At this time of year the media start calling and messaging, wanting to talk about her disappearance.

"I can't tell you anything! That's what I get so frustrated about!" Karen Fraser says.

"All I know is my daughter's missing and has been for 10 years and I don't know where to look."

"Whoever's keeping the secret needs to come clean because somebody knows something."

## the GANNAWARRA

Kerang Cohuna Koondrook

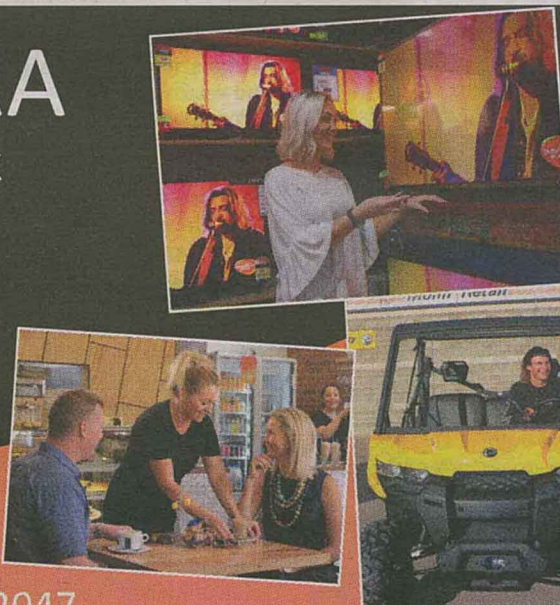
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