Media release

For immediate release: Tuesday 28 July 2020

What's Missing: Casefile True Crime joins the search

The wide-reaching and devastating impacts of ambiguous loss on families of long-term missing people are explored in a first-of-its-kind podcast to be released on Friday 31 July by Missing Persons Advocacy Network (MPAN) in partnership with global podcast sensation Casefile True Crime.

The first of ten episodes in the series, What’s Missing, will be available on Friday in recognition of National Missing Persons Week (NMPW), which runs from Sunday 2 August to Saturday 8 August 2020.

Unlike other open-case podcasts, What’s Missing will provide a voice for family and friends of missing loved ones, broadening the narrative beyond the factual details of the disappearance and search.

Loren O’Keeffe, Founder and CEO of MPAN, conducts intimate and candid interviews with the family members of eight high profile missing loved ones to explore the harrowing experiences of those left behind (see list below).

“Cases of missing persons usually focus on the vital stats – height, DOB, and date last seen – which can dehumanise them, causing distress for their families.

“This will be the first podcast that really humanises long term missing Australians, while discussing what it’s actually like for families that are left to manage the endless practical obstacles and psychological torment,” says Loren.

The first and second episode will be available on Friday 31 July and on Tuesday 4 August respectively and will feature the stories of two missing Australians: Nicola Sallese and Warren Meyer, with Paul Wright’s story released on Tuesday 11 August.

“Casefile Presents wanted to create a show that focused exclusively on missing persons,” says the anonymous host of the hit true crime podcast.

“We are proud to support this cause and raise awareness of the impact of ambiguous loss so MPAN can continue supporting these families.”

Having lived experience following the disappearance of her brother in 2011, Loren brings a personal understanding to help tell the stories of missing persons and the unique challenges faced by their loved ones.

“This type of loss lacks closure for families, and – for that reason – it is rarely openly acknowledged or understood by the wider community.”

According to MPAN, awareness of ambiguous loss in Australia is low, as is the need for increased specialised counselling to treat those who have been affected.

“There are thousands of Australians whose grief hasn’t been properly recognised or adequately supported,” says Loren.

“Unlike traditional bereavement, where the loss is clear, it doesn’t get easier over time. It gets harder. It’s a continual loss that requires ongoing support.”

MPAN is the only charity of its kind in Australia advocating for those still missing, who do not have a voice, and the family and friends who struggle with the unending not-knowing.
The first episode of *What’s Missing* will be released today to coincide with Australia’s NMPW 2020 which runs from Sunday 2 August to Saturday 8 August, with episodes released on Friday 31 July, Tuesday 4 August and then every Tuesday thereafter.

*What’s Missing* will be available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts.

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**MULTIMEDIA**

- Link to video and audio trailers, photos of missing loved ones and artwork [here](#)
- Link to the website – [What’s Missing Podcast](#)

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Prestipino</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aaron@senateshj.com.au">aaron@senateshj.com.au</a></td>
<td>0423 611 394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Calder</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jill@senateshj.com.au">jill@senateshj.com.au</a></td>
<td>0419 508 597</td>
</tr>
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**SPOKESPEOPLE AVAILABLE**

- Loren O’Keeffe – Founder and CEO of MPAN; Host of the *What’s Missing* podcast
- Dr Sarah Wayland – Sarah is a Lecturer and researcher at the University of Sydney specialising in psychosocial disability and trauma relating to mental health needs of people left behind when someone is missing. [Interviewed for a bonus *What’s Missing* episode]
- The anonymous host of ‘Casefile True Crime’
  - PLEASE NOTE: As he prefers to remain anonymous on the podcast, only written interviews will be available via submitted questions. Please contact media contact for live interviews.
- A/Prof. Jodie Ward – Director of the Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research (AFTER) and an Associate Professor in the Centre for Forensic Science at UTS. Jodie leads research, development and application of forensic human identification techniques for missing persons casework in Australia. [Interviewed for a bonus *What’s Missing* episode]

**EMAIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loren O’Keeffe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loren@mpan.com.au">loren@mpan.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.wayland@sydney.edu.au">sarah.wayland@sydney.edu.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:host@casefilepodcast.com">host@casefilepodcast.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jodie@mpan.com.au">jodie@mpan.com.au</a></td>
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**FAMILY MEMBERS WILLING TO BE CONTACTED**

Jason Sallese, Nicola Sallese’s son (Episode 1) 0408 486 788

Zee Meyer, Warren Meyer’s wife (Episode 2) 0407 049 545

<p>| List of individuals featured on the <em>What’s Missing</em> podcast (in order of episode release) |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|</p>
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<th>Missing Person</th>
<th>Family member interviewed</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Nicola Sallese – Has been missing from Sheffield, Tasmania since November 2008.</td>
<td>Nicola’s son, Jason Sallese.</td>
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3. Paul Wright – Has been missing from Camberwell, Victoria since September 2003. Paul’s dad, Nick Wright.


7. Paul Rushworth – Has been missing from Sydney, NSW since 2013. Paul’s partner, Peter Harris.


About the Missing Persons Advocacy Network

MPAN was established in 2013 by Loren O’Keeffe, whose brother Dan went missing in July 2011. The organisation creates awareness for missing Australians and offers practical and emotional support to their loved ones left behind. MPAN’s previous campaigns to raise awareness include The Unmissables coffee cup campaign, Missed Birthdays, and the Too Short Stories initiative.

More information can be found at www.mpan.com.au

About Casefile Presents

Casefile Presents is a new podcasting platform created by global podcast sensation Casefile True Crime, whose catalogue has had more than 380 million downloads worldwide.

Casefile Presents’ first release was the highly successful Silent Waves, a seven-episode series that reached number one on Australia’s Apple podcast charts, was featured in Apple’s ‘New and Noteworthy’ category, and achieved high rankings in the USA, Canada and the UK. Silent Waves has amassed close to 800,000 downloads since its launch.

What’s Missing will be the platform’s second project, with its first episode to be released on 31 July 2020.

More information can be found at: https://casefilepresents.com/

About National Missing Persons Week

National Missing Persons Week 2020 runs from August 2 - 8 and aims to raise awareness of those in Australia who are missing, and the impact on our community. More than 38,000 Australians are reported missing every year. While most of these individuals are found in the first 48 hours, some are missing long-term.

In Australia there are over 2,600 people listed as a long-term missing person. A long-term missing person is someone who has been missing for more than three months.

NMPW is an initiative of the families of long-term missing Australians to educate the community on significant issues surrounding missing persons while keeping their stories going in the hope they may one day be found.

The efforts of NMPW also aim to support those who may be at risk of disappearing themselves to reach out for help.