

ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT TO BE HEARD AFTER ALLEGED SEX ASSAULT IN PENRITH

SILENT NO MORE

ALLY HALL

Peggy Roddick is making noise, and plenty of it.

The long-time Penrith resident and former business owner is going public in her quest for justice after she was allegedly sexually assaulted in a Cranebrook home early last year.

The horrifying incident occurred in February 2025, but police say there is not enough evidence to lay any charges against the couple accused to be involved.

It is the police's response to her case that has infuriated Roddick, who in recent weeks has been extremely vocal on social media and has founded a Facebook page called The FoundHer Collective.

"I'm getting flooded with personal messages and comments by women locally and Australia-wide that have been through the same thing and have felt dismissed by police," she said.

"I would love to think that I could make a difference."



Full story on » p. 12-13

Peggy Roddick.

ADVERTISEMENT



FRIDAY 12 JUNE -
SUNDAY 28 JUNE

FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT
COMMUNITY

Scan the QR code for a full schedule



TP/00117.
T&Cs apply.

westhq.com.au

WWSB714

LOCAL NEWS

HER QUEST FOR JUSTICE:

She was an emerging Penrith business leader, until one night changed her life.

ALLY HALL

Peggy Roddick reported her alleged sexual assault in February last year. By September, she had quit her job and left Penrith – the place she was born and lived for 38 years – after losing faith in local police and fearing seeing her alleged abusers in public.

She has now taken to social media to connect with other survivors of sexual assault, seek justice, and share her story.

"I was a real estate agent in Penrith, and I had a female acquaintance through that business. Her partner owns a local business in town, and I was using him as a trade for my real estate work," Roddick said about her alleged perpetrators, who she had known for over 10 years.

The assault allegedly occurred when Roddick was invited to her friend's home for 'girl drinks' following the death of her grandmother. She believes she was spiked on this evening.

"He just sat there the whole time. He didn't talk, he didn't drink, he just stared at me," Roddick said.

"I felt awkward, but I didn't want to be rude, so I just pretended he



Peggy Roddick is speaking out.

wasn't there and spoke to my friend. To feel less awkward, I did drink a lot, but he was also handing me the

vodka bottle and encouraging me to drink."

She recalls talking about her own

partner frequently throughout the night and asked the pair how they first met.

"She said that he had been grooming her since she was 13, and then they both laughed. I don't know why she would say that, but I assumed it was a joke, so I let it slide," she said.

"Later on, we were in the lounge room listening to music and I remember seeing him nod to her, and after he nodded, she grabbed my hand and led me to the bedroom."

Before that, Roddick remembers seeing her friend consume only one drink.

"My head was very slow compared to my body and I was doubting what was going on because you don't expect to go to a girlfriend's house and have this happen," she said.

"So, there I was in her bedroom, and I asked her twice what was going on, and all she did was shrug her shoulders and shut her eyes almost pretending like she was drunk. Then he came into the room, locked the door, and I'll stop there."

For Roddick, that experience accounts for half of her trauma – the other half stems from what she says have been frustrating encounters with police.

She attended hospital to undergo a rape kit at 6pm the day after the assault and received a call from a detective at 11.38pm.

The phone call lasted for eight minutes and 30 seconds, and Roddick described the detective as "dismissive".

"I would love to think that I could make a difference"

"He asked me if my dress stayed on, and I said yes. After that, he said because the dress stayed on it doesn't sound like sexual assault and it would be my word against theirs," she said.

She was informed that the investigation would not proceed until toxicology and DNA results came back. Then there was silence for five

REFUSING TO BE SILENT

Peggy Roddick believes inaction by police has denied her the justice she deserves

months.

During that period, she told the *Weekender* she went to Penrith Police Station three times to ask someone to take her statement. Her statement was not taken until August when she attended St Marys Police Station with evidence.

"The only way I got the detective to take a formal statement was by getting all my evidence together. He didn't realise at that stage that I had evidence because he never asked if I had any proof of what happened," Roddick said.

That evidence relates to messages and photos, which Roddick had compiled.

The *Weekender* is aware of the nature of the photos and messages but has not published them for legal reasons.

In November, Roddick was asked to participate in an unsuccessful covert phone call as part of the investigation, and the detective interviewed the couple in December.

"When I was doing the covert phone call, he did apologise for not listening to me and he admitted that the toxicology results came in at two months, not five months. So, I think it was game over from the start, and



Peggy Roddick previously owned a local real estate firm.

he was just humouring me because I wouldn't let it go," she said.

"I think that if I had not complained and contacted him, I never would

have heard from him again."

Roddick received an email from the detective on April 1 this year to say no further investigation will be

undertaken.

She is now seeking justice by posting her experience on her Facebook page, The FoundHer Collective.

"I'm getting flooded with personal messages and comments by women locally and Australia-wide that have been through the same thing and have felt dismissed by police," she said.

"I would love to think that I could make a difference."

Police have confirmed that the investigation has been suspended.

"On Sunday 23 February 2025, detectives attached to Nepean Police Area Command commenced an investigation following reports of an incident at a home in Cranebrook on Saturday 22 February 2025," a spokesperson said.

"Following an extensive police investigation, the matter was suspended due to insufficient corroborative evidence."

For now, Roddick will continue speaking up for victims of sexual assault.

"Based on how coordinated they were, I don't think I am their only victim, and I don't think I will be their last," she said.

"I'm hoping that they won't hurt anyone else again because they will be too scared that they will be caught because I have spoken out."

Sexual assault 24-hour helpline: 1800 737 732.