

Allison's family have thanked the media for compassion during the "most devastating period" of their lives and have asked for privacy in a statement issued this morning.

To the Australian media,

As a family we would like to thank the Australian media for the respect you have shown us over the past two years during what has been the most devastating period of our lives.

Throughout this time, you have shown us empathy and compassion for which we are enormously grateful. We have also appreciated your efforts to ensure our family and in particular, our grand-children's privacy have been protected.

As the trial is imminent, we understand public interest in the case will again escalate and we recognise the media has a role in responding to this.

However, out of respect for our daughter, her children and the legal process we will not be doing any interviews in the lead up to or during the trial. We ask that you respect our privacy and our decision not to grant interviews and refrain from photographing or filming the children.

We hope you can imagine the ongoing impact of these events on our granddaughters – it has been devastating and will be long lasting.

Our primary concern remains their emotional and physical wellbeing. We are trying to help them rebuild their lives and ask for your support and cooperation in this.

Yours sincerely,

The Dickie Family

2pm: Baden-Clay's defence lawyer Peter Shields has made a brief statement to the media before the trial of his client, 43, gets under way in the Supreme Court in Brisbane.

"At the commencement of the trial Justice (John) Byrne directed the jury to the danger of paying attention to anything other than evidence which is placed before them in court," Mr Shields said.

"Accordingly, the defence and my client's family will not be making any statement to the media or answering any questions asked by the media until after the verdict.

"I also ask the media to respect my client's family as they attend court in support of Gerard."

ANY EVIDENCE LIKE PHOTOS, VIDEO OR DOCUMENTS THE COURT RELEASES TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE PUBLISHED in the [GBC Documents Page](#)

PROSECUTOR OPENS THE CROWN CASE

2.35pm: Prosecutor Todd Fuller QC has opened the Crown case, saying a canoeist found Ms Baden-Clay's body on the bank of Kholo Creek on April 30.

He showed the jury a vivid photograph of her body in situ on the bank, below a pillar on the Kholo Creek Bridge.

“The body was positioned on a natural plateau on the high tide mark near the bridge supports,” he said.

Mr Fuller said a piece of clothing was wrapped around Ms Baden-Clay's head.

Mr Fuller said Ms Baden-Clay was reported missing 10 days earlier by her husband.

He said she was 43, was married to her husband for 15 years and had three daughters aged 10, 8 and five, who all attended the local primary school at Brookfield.

He said the family lived on Brookfield Rd, in a four bedroom house, near a childcare centre and a church.

Mr Fuller showed the jury a detailed map of the family's home in a home set back from the road, with a carport on the right-hand side.

He said the home was accessed via stairs at the front.

Mr Fuller said there was a paved area at the rear of the family home.

He asked the jury to take note of foliage near the back of the family home on the brick paved area.

He said Ms Baden-Clay was a general manager at the real estate agency where her husband worked, taught dance and was dabbling in her own real estate ventures.

“But not everything was as it seems in their relationship,” Mr Fuller said.

2.45pm: Prosecutor Todd Fuller said an autopsy was done on Ms Baden-Clay's body on May 1, 2012.

He said her body was positioned in such a way, with an arm behind her, that it looked as though she was dragged.

Mr Fuller said the timing of her death was consistent with her disappearance some 10 or 11 days earlier.

“There were only two identifiable possible injuries ... because of the advanced stage of decomposition,” he said.

He said Ms Baden-Clay had a chipped tooth and some bruising to her chest, injuries not consistent with falling from a bridge.

Mr Fuller said there was plankton diatoms in Ms Baden-Clay's lungs, which are found in water.

He said toxicology showed alcohol and antidepressants in her system.

He said botanical matter was recovered from Ms Baden-Clay's arms, hair and head during the autopsy and six different types of plants were identified.

He said two were present at Kholo Creek, but all six types of plants were found in the family yard at Brookfield.

Mr Fuller said April 19, 2012 was like any other day for the Baden-Clay family.

He said Nigel Baden-Clay, the father of the accused, had attended the home that morning to collect items for an auction.

Mr Fuller said Ms Baden-Clay had a business meeting from 9.30am to 1.30pm and was looking forward to attending a real estate convention the following day.

He said she had arranged for her daughters to sleep over at a friend's house that night and had a hairdresser's appointment at 4pm.

He said Olivia Walton, who was visiting from Townsville, and Baden-Clay were watching his children at a cross country carnival that day where he complained about being bitten on the neck by something.

Mr Fuller said Ms Baden-Clay texted a friend that evening, arranging to return a dress she had borrowed.

That night, he said, Ms Walton and Ms Baden-Clay spoke to one another on the phone to make arrangements for their children.

Mr Fuller said Ms Walton was the last person to speak to Ms Baden-Clay.

2.50pm: Prosecutor Todd Fuller said one of the Baden-Clay children saw their mother sitting watching television on the night of April 19, 2012.

He said the girls woke the following morning to news that their mother was not home.

Mr Fuller said the children's father had an injury on his face and he told them he cut himself shaving.

He said Baden-Clay called his wife three times before he contacted his father, Nigel, at 6.45am.

He said Nigel came to the house to look at the children while Baden-Clay took his wife's car, a silver Holden Captiva, to look for her.

Mr Fuller said Baden-Clay made contact with a woman called Kate Rankin around 7am to find out what she had planned to do with his wife that day at the conference.

At 7.15am, Baden-Clay made a call to police to say his wife was missing, Mr Fuller said.

Mr Fuller said police arrived at 7.30am and noticed three cars parked in the driveway, the Captiva, a Prado and a statesman that belonged to Nigel Baden-Clay.

He said the officers noted Baden-Clay was dressed in business clothing and had marks on his face. He said the accused told them the marks were "shaving cuts".

2.55pm: Mr Fuller said the accused told police he was the one who reported his wife missing.

He said she usually went for a morning walk and he last saw her when she was sitting and watching television the night before.

Mr Fuller said the accused pulled the police officers aside and told them he had been having an affair and "things weren't that good" between them.

He said Baden-Clay told the police his wife's state of mind was pretty good, although she had suffered from depression in the past.

He said the accused told the officers he and his wife had been seeking counselling and things between them "were pretty good".

He said Baden-Clay explained to police that he was "a heavy sleeper" and could not remember whether his wife had slept in bed with him the night before.

He told police he last saw his wife at 10am and when he got up just after 6am, she was not home, Mr Fuller said.

He told police his wife planned to leave for the conference by 7am, Mr Fuller said.

Mr Fuller said Baden-Clay told the officers his wife was scheduled to have a "15-minute session" to explain her feelings the night before, which is why arrangements were made for the children to sleep elsewhere on April 19.

He said police found the journal and showed the jury a page from it, which was a hand-drawn diagram showing the layout of the home of the woman with whom he was having an affair.

Mr Fuller said he contacted Ms Baden-Clay's family after 9am.

3pm: Crown Prosecutor Todd Fuller says police searched for Ms Baden-Clay in the Brookfield area without success in the days that followed.

He said police interest turned to the neighbours and an extensive door-knock was conducted.

He said some neighbours heard a couple arguing and others heard a scream "sometime after 11.30pm".

Mr Fuller said nearby neighbours heard a woman screaming.

He said Dr Bruce Flegg was on a phone to a friend of his when he thought he heard a single female scream nearby followed by a second scream.

"He thought by using the time he was on the phone that occurred about 11pm on that night of the 19th," Mr Fuller said.

He told the jury neighbours who lived across the river from Kholo Creek bridge heard their dogs barking followed by "two heavy thuds" coming from the area.

Mr Fuller said another man living in the area thought he heard voices coming from the bridge in the early hours of the morning.

He said police attention turned back on the Baden-Clay family home.

Mr Fuller said when police inspected Ms Baden-Clay's car, they found items in the back which once removed, showed an extra row of seats.

He said a stain in the back of the car tested a presumptive positive for blood on the back, driver's side of the car.

"It was approximately 23cm above the floor height and showed signs of being a transfer stain," Mr Fuller said.

He said a hair attached to the blood stain was later confirmed with DNA as belonging to Ms Baden-Clay.

3.15pm: Mr Fuller said Ms Baden-Clay's car, the Holden Captiva, was dubbed by the family as "Sparky".

He said police looked at the injuries sustained by Baden-Clay and tested his razor, which had no reaction when tested using a substance that tested presumptively for blood.

He said a doctor thought the marks were more consistent with scratches from a finger, rather than shaving cuts.

Mr Fuller said Ms Baden-Clay's phone was never found.

He said Baden-Clay's phone was put on charge at 1.40am and was not removed until 6.18am on April 20, 2012.

He said there was a text message sent from Baden-Clay to his wife asking where she was.

Mr Fuller said the accused and his wife had an application on their phone which allowed their phones to be located.

He said Baden-Clay had spoken with a woman called Toni McHugh

He said there were two income streams in the business but there had been a downturn since the floods with respect to the sale of properties, which had forced Baden-Clay to borrow around \$90,000 from friends to make ends meet.

Mr Fuller said Baden-Clay was unable to meet the interest payments to his friends.

He said in December, 2011 the accused approached Dr Bruce Flegg asking to borrow some \$400,000 from him.

Mr Fuller said in March, 2012, Baden-Clay made a second request to Dr Flegg for money and was "crying and distraught" that he would go bankrupt without assistance.

He said Baden-Clay's wife was insured with two insurance companies.

Mr Fuller said that because of the presence of an antidepressant in her system, police investigated Ms Baden-Clay's mental health.

He said she was diagnosed with moderate to severe depression in 2003 but ceased using medication in 2005. Mr Fuller said the medication she was on was reduced and she continued to be reviewed until 2008.

He said in 2009, Ms Baden-Clay and the accused consulted a psychiatrist about their relationship in which the accused expressed concerns about whether the marriage could continue.

He said the couple was referred to counselling.

Mr Fuller said the accused saw a psychologist between December, 2010 and January, 2011 where he expressed a desire to work towards ending the couple's relationship.

He said Ms Baden-Clay, in October, 2011, disclosed to a counsellor that she had become aware her husband was having an affair.

Mr Fuller said between October and November, 2011, the couple consulted another psychologist and continued to work towards repairing their marriage.

He said Ms Baden-Clay engaged another counsellor from Relationships Australia shortly afterwards.

Mr Fuller said her last session was jointly attended by the accused on April 16, 2012.

He said the couple was told to discuss their feelings in 15-minute blocks.

Mr Fuller said the woman the accused was having an affair with was Toni McHugh, a relationship that commenced in 2008.

He said Ms McHugh had little contact with the wife of the accused.

3.20pm: Mr Fuller said that after ending the affair following its discovery, the accused reconnected with Ms McHugh in December, 2011.

He said Baden-Clay and his mistress set a date from which to begin a new life together on July 1, 2012.

He said the accused told Ms McHugh his wife would be attending the same real estate conference she was planning to attend on April 20, 2012.

He said the accused told Ms McHugh he was intending to leave his marriage and contemplated selling his business.

Mr Fuller said Ms McHugh deleted text messages and emails from a "Bruce Overland" email account on hearing news that Ms Baden-Clay was missing.

Mr Fuller showed emails to the jury in which Ms McHugh wrote to the "Bruce Overland" account planning their new life.

Baden-Clay allegedly wrote back from the account: "I have given you a commitment and I intend to stick to it - I will be separated by 1 July."

In another email he wrote on April 11, 2012: "This is agony for me, too."

Mr Fuller said the accused and Ms McHugh referred to one another as GG for "gorgeous girl" and GM for "gorgeous man".

He said it was the Crown case the accused killed his wife.

"The Crown case, ladies and gentleman is a circumstantial one," Mr Fuller said.

"The Crown says Allison Baden-Clay did not die of natural causes but that she in fact died at the hands of her husband."

Mr Fuller said the Crown would allege Baden-Clay took the body to Kholo Creek to hide the truth.

"The blood in the car tells us the car was used to transport her to Kholo Creek and the blood in the car suggests Allison Baden-Clay had an injury of some sort in the back of that vehicle," he said.

3.50pm: The first witness in the trial is Senior Sgt Ewen Nicholas Manton Taylor, Officer in Charge of the Hendra Scenes Of Crime Unit.

In evidence he told Crown prosecutor Danny Boyle he first became involved in the investigation on April 20, 2012, when he attended the Baden-Clay family home.

Sen-Sgt Taylor said he was in the role of forensic co-ordinator during the investigation. He said he received a phone call to say a body had been discovered on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 11.30am.

Sen-Sgt Taylor said the investigation was dubbed Operation Kilo Ring by police.

He said he requested interactive crime scenes be compiled of various areas of interest during the investigation, which would allow police to revisit a crime scene electronically.

Those locations included the family home at 593 Brookfield Rd and the Kholo Creek Bridge at Anstead, where the body was found.

He demonstrated for the jury how they could click on locations on a map within the program to visit the alleged crime scenes police established in the Baden-Clay investigation.

He said police were unable to recreate the crime scene underneath the Kholo Creek Bridge because it was so heavily vegetated.

Sen-Sgt Taylor took the jury inside the Baden-Clay family home as it was on April 24, 2012 using the interactive program, detailing the lounge area, a walk-in wardrobe and the master bedroom.

He said Ms Baden-Clay's body was located on the muddy eastern bank of Kholo Creek.

"The only safe way to reach the deceased location was to rapel (abseil) or be roped down to the location," he said.

Sen-Sgt Taylor said the body was found on the Anstead-side of the creek.

"When I arrived at this location I saw a deceased female person, the deceased was located on the mud on that eastern bank of the creek ..." he said.

"The deceased was lying on her right side and facing in to the eastern bank, her hands and arms were more or less up in front of her head.

"The deceased was in an advanced stage of decomposition... more major around face, head and neck area.

"I saw she was wearing a pair of white and blue sneakers, what appeared to be three quarter tracksuit pants and a singlet top and a jumper wrapped and twisted around her hands ... the jumper was up over her shoulder and wrapped around her neck."

The jury was shown a series of photos of Ms Baden-Clay's decomposed body on the creek bank, her head hooded and enclosed by a grey jumper in which her arms were entwined in front of her face.

“She was approximately 880mm from the bank, or a pylon that we will see in some other photographs, from the bank,” he said.

4.10pm: Sen-Sgt Taylor told the jury he took photographs of the area beneath the Kholo Creek Bridge where Ms Baden-Clay's body was found on April 30, 2012.

The jury was showed detailed photos of the creek, mud bank and the concrete bridge pylons.

He said police arranged for a stretcher and tarpaulin to be lowered to the bank so they could place the body on it. Sen-Sgt Taylor said the body was then lifted back to the bridge above.

He said it became evident the body, once removed, had left an imprint or indentation on the mud bank.

Sen-Sgt Taylor said he returned to the Kholo Creek Bridge with a botanist to record plant and botanic features in the area on July 19, 2012.

The jury was shown photographs of Mt Crosby Rd above the bridge, where a group of people were gathered, presumably police, on the day the body was found.

Another photograph showed the path he travelled to get underneath the bridge, a steep, muddy bank leading beneath the pylons from the road above.

He said there was a “quite unsafe” 2m drop from the bank to the area where the body was found.

“So once I arrived... there was nothing else in the area,” he said.

Sen-Sgt Taylor said the mud on the creek bank was “very difficult to work in”.

4.15pm: The second witness in the trial is Indooroopilly Police Station Sgt Murray Watson, who said he knew the accused through his work evicting tenants from a property at 45 Chalcot Rd, Anstead in 2010.

“I went on quite a few occasions but there were three formal occasions that I was required to be there,” he said.

Sgt Watson said he each time he visited the property Baden-Clay was also there: in April, 2010, again in August and at an auction for the property around six months later.

He said the house also included a nursery and was “quite substantial”.

In cross-examination by barrister Michael Byrne QC, for the accused, Sgt Watson said he knew Baden-Clay before then through community organisations such as Rotary.

He agreed he regarded him as “one of the nicest guys in the world”.

“Yes, I’d agree that was true,” Sgt Watson said.

Sgt Watson said the people who had possession of the Anstead house were known to the police and there was concern they had “stockpiled” weapons, which was why he became involved.

He said the Supreme Court authorised police to gain possession of the property with a warrant.

Sgt Watson said Baden-Clay contacted him to help keep the peace on the day of the auction because the previous tenants were protesting the sale.

4.30pm: The third and final witness for today is Sen-Constable Ashley Martin Huth, who works with the Brisbane Scientific section.

He said he first became involved in the investigation into Ms Baden-Clay’s disappearance on April 24, 2012.

Sen-Constable Huth said he used a presumptive screening chemical known as “TMV” that changes colour when it comes into contact with the haemoglobin in blood.

He said the suspected blood stain was transferred to blotting paper, then TMV was added with a hydrogen peroxide.

Sen-Constable Huth said a presumptive positive for blood would show a bright blue or green colour.

He said he tested under the house and a small camper trailer for blood but found no TMV-positive areas.

Sen-Constable Huth said he went to the Kholo Creek Bridge following the discovery of Ms Baden-Clay’s body on April 30, 2012.

He said an officer who had tried to photograph the area had an accident requiring medical treatment and as a result, police contacted Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers for help to reach the location.

Later, he said the officer who was injured had slipped trying to reach the body and dislocated his shoulder.

He said he noticed no disturbance or impression areas around the body as he was lowered down to the bank from the top of the bank.

Sen-Constable Huth said he had to examine the scene while tethered on the rope, because the mud surface was “very soft”.

“It was quite water-logged and muddy,” he said.

He told the jury he took several measurements to determine the position of the body as well as samples.

Sen-Constable Huth said he took water, soil, insect and plant samples.

He said maggots were found in different locations on the body and taken for analysis.

“They were all packaged, sealed with evidence tape and transferred back to the Brisbane scientific section,” he said.

Sen-Constable Huth said it would be difficult to reach the bank without rappelling down from the bridge.

The trial will resume at 10am on Wednesday.