

Raw transcript of interview:

# 2024-03-08 - Club Grubbery - TRUST FALL JULIAN ASSANGE FOLLOW UP

## Publish

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Hi everyone, and Friday the 8th of March. It's really great to be back with you again. We've been flat out lining up interviews for next week, and it's going to be a very big week. We've got, uh, we'll have probably five interviews to come up next week. So, um, really good ones as well, but we'll talk about that some other time.

I want to, uh, I want to remind everybody that I'm going to the, um, the triple conference in Albury, uh, which has been set up by the Aussie Wire and Topher Field. That's happening at the, uh, Convention Centre at Albury, and really looking forward to that. There's a lot of people going. And, uh, we're looking forward to you, to seeing many of you there, it's a, it's a great event, they're going to be discussing a lot of issues and the speakers list is like from Melbourne to Brisbane, it's so big.

So I'm just, I'm just there for a couple of, a couple of opportunities to speak and, um, it's going to focus a lot on solutions. So if anyone's thinking about going there, it's a great place to go and visit, Albury's a beautiful town and it's going to be a great event. And, uh, we're also promoting another great event tonight.

As you can see, we have Kim Staten back on from, um, from the trust for Julian Assange, and he's got some great news about what's going on with that and some more updates. And Johnny, your backdrop is reminiscent of days gone by for you and me and a whole bunch of other people who went to Korokai to help out.

Yeah, Hooty, I just think it was, uh, uh, such an historic, um, time for, for everyone and, uh, not, not for good reasons, obviously, but, uh, I think it just serves as a reminder to everyone that, uh, this mess is still going on up there. People are still living in, uh, ad hoc shelters, um, people still don't have, uh, basic services.

And, uh, yeah, I just really feel for them and just let them know that we've got them in our thoughts and prayers. And, uh, yeah, I probably need to do a, uh, a special on it at some point just to find out what's happened. Yeah, it's crazy. And, uh, Lismore a fair bit. John, as you know, I live not far from there and it is still a mess.

It's just a mess. And as we said about on another program, uh, not long ago, uh, the local member has insisted that the official death toll he emphasizes is for, for Lismore. But we, uh, we've been told by locals that 18 bodies were found in a motel. These were homeless people that were sheltered there and, um, 18 bodies were found.

And, uh, I heard from a local fisherman at Corakai when we were there that. He was in the water with his tinny and they dragged 11 bodies out of the water in Lismore. So I don't know why they're playing down the death toll. But anyhow, it is what it is. Maybe it's due to the incompetence of the services that were there at the time because they're all bogged down in this COVID rubbish.

And um, so yes, our thoughts and prayers are with all the people in the Northern Rivers who are still trying to get over what happened there and uh, it's crazy stuff. But International Women's Day, John. Yeah, another, uh, another one of these, uh, well, look, they're not insignificant events, are they, Hoodie? I mean, it's, it's really important to recognize women, uh, and the roles that they play, uh, in, in, uh, in our lives, uh, and, uh, yeah.

But these politicians and bureaucrats, they're quick to jump hold of a camera opportunity, aren't they? And, uh, you know, fly the flag and, you know, we're doing wonderful things. But, uh, You grubs ought to remember what

you did to women. You mandated them out of work. Uh, and you made women's lives hell, and continue to do so.

Uh, people like, uh, Bronnie Taylor, the, uh, former Regional Health Minister, uh, under Brad Hazard, voting for all this madness, and, uh, People like Jill Latford, the health, um, chief executive in the Murarrambidgee health region. That's Sak Caitlin and so many other, uh, nurses really wanting to do their jobs.

And so many nurses still unemployed and some of them sleeping in cars. Um, something to ponder. Also something to ponder. Uh, before we go to our guest tonight, uh, John is News Out of Canada, uh, a journalist over there, uh, Ian Vandale, who is a, uh, a young journalist, 32 years of age, who was, uh, fairly famous during the, uh, the pandemic.

We're insisting that, uh, it demanded concentration camps for the unvaccinated. Anyone who didn't get vaccinated shouldn't have a normal life and should lose their jobs. Uh, he's obviously heavily vaccinated and was promoting it and, uh, now he's dead. Age 33, died of neurological disorders. Um, and, um, I mean, that's nothing for anyone to gloat about, but I mean, The world, the world, the wheel is turning and, um, people have got to start paying attention to what's going on.

Anyhow, a lot more of this would have been brought to the fore and explanations would have been available to us all. If the man in the backdrop behind Kim Staten was still practicing his craft of journalism and was free. And we've said it a lot lately that there is no way on earth that anyone in this country in particular can hold any moral authority while Julian Assange remains captive.

It's just obscene and there's been a lot of developments. Anthony Albanese is making strong noises about that. I hope he's strong because he's not very strong on other things and let's hope that he, he does something to help Julian Assange out. But somebody who we're going to talk to now knows a lot more about it than most of us do.

He spent a long time making this fantastic documentary that's going gangbusters. We've got some great news about this documentary film and so Kim Staten, welcome to the program. Thanks very much, Graham and John. Great to be here. Now, you're in Spain at the moment because you've been uh you've been gallivanting around Europe promoting this film.

How's it been going? Oh, it's been unbelievable. Um we have a preview screening in London on the 18th of March. Um, it was a full house of 400 people, a queue down the road, um, just having a bit of a break over in Spain at the moment, but, uh, heading to Auckland this afternoon and, uh, there'll be a big session there at Auckland Academy Cinemas and then, uh, probably a record crowd in Sydney on, um, Tuesday night at Event Cinemas, George Street.

Wow. Wow. Now, before we go into the movie and its successes, and it's obviously going to be a blockbuster, this one, there's no doubt about it. I mean, for a documentary film, um, it, it's going, it's going to achieve greatness because obviously people are waking up and a lot of people are saying, come on, enough's enough.

This is ridiculous, especially now as we identify some of the main players involved in the evil that surrounds Julian and his, and his, uh, captivity. We've got the Clintons and all these other people, all these other big players, which you discuss in the film. So a lot of people are waking up to the skullduggery that's going on in, in with the globalists and the, and the global elite and the politicians around the world.

So for this to come out is just amazing. So what, what can you tell us about what's happening with Julian at the moment? We know he's still waiting, um, an appeal. Yeah, that's correct. So on the 20th and 21st of February, so that's, uh, nearly three weeks ago. Now, uh, the, uh, application to appear was heard at the UK high courts in London.

It was a two day public hearing and The expectation was that there would be an immediate decision by the judges as to whether they would hear an additional appeal against the extradition or whether he would be on a plane to America to face these bogus charges. However, Typical of the UK judiciary system.

Um, they've delayed it. They love to draw, drag everything out because it's part of the, probably part of the psychological torture on Julian and his family and even on his. Um, they just take their time and nobody knows when they're going to, uh, announce that decision. Um, and so the, the case, the situation is on a precipice.

The, uh, decision can be announced any day now and the, the, the more days that go past, the more likely it will be announced. Um, so we're getting very close to finding out whether they're going to hear that appeal or not. Um, it's, it's a really scary situation for, for Julian being on the verge of, um, potential extradition into the hands of his tormentors, into the hands of these, uh, psychopaths that will quite happily torture him for information.

Um, and you know, there is a possibility that when he's on U. S. shores that, uh, the, the charges could be, uh, uh, upgraded, uh, and he could be, uh, given a death sentence. Well, he's already been given a death sentence now, really, Johnny Larder, because this is like the death of a thousand cuts. It's worse, isn't it, Woody, and, uh, you know, there's nothing you can really add to it.

It's just, it's just horrific. Um, but let's, let's just, uh, hope that, uh, Our jellyfish prime minister, uh, really backs up, uh, his words, uh, and that has some resonance, uh, uh, in the, in the political and, uh, judicial sector in the UK, because if he gets over to the U S who knows what will happen. Well, I think we all know what's going to happen.

Well there is a bit of an expectation of what, what could happen there because the, uh, in the, in the extradition trial, the U S has. Given these assurances that he will be well treated, uh, but that included, uh, that they would have provisioned to have him under what they call Sam's special administrative measures, which is basically torture.

So they're going to give him special treatment, which involves torture to get the information out of him that they want. Uh, he's on the facing trial, uh, for these, this 18 count, um, bogus Indictment under the Espionage Act of 1917 Antiquated Act that's, um, shocking precedent of using this Espionage Act, uh, over a hundred year old law against an Australian journalist, against a journalist for the first time.

That's not even a citizen of their country. Um, so the, the 175 year looming Prison sentence is just virtually a death sentence. Um, but as I said, they could actually upgrade it and give him the death penalty. That that is a possibility. So, uh, the time is really short for people to wake up to, to find out about this issue, get off the fence, um, you know, and stop being apathetic about it.

Uh, spend a couple of hours and understand what this is about. How's his wife holding up? Well, look, she's a very strong woman and, uh, amazing spokesperson. And, uh, it's, it must be such a difficult time for her. I mean, all of the years that they've been together, it must've been incredibly difficult. And they've had two children together, two boys.

Um, they visit Julian in prison once or twice a week. The kids go with them. Um, the kids up until, uh, not long ago, they, they were too young to understand. That he was in a prison, um, but they've recently sort of cottoned onto it, um, and, and realized that their father is actually being held there.

Unbelievable. Unbelievable. And, uh, as far as the movie is concerned, uh, have you had, or are you likely to have any showing in the USA? Absolutely. Yeah. Uh, unless there's some way they can stop it, which I don't think there would be, uh, we will, uh, get it out very soon in the U S we're just working on the strategy right now.

Um, our, our main, uh, strategy is that we want a major chain in the U S to, to pick it up so that we don't have to do this sort of drawn out. Two, three months long sort of progressive release, which is what we did in Australia.

It's been, it was released in on the 28th of December and it's, uh, it's, it's only really starting to pick up steam now with, um, 117 cinema showing it around Australia and New Zealand.

We're hoping with the US that on the back of this incredible result, the box office results in Australia, New Zealand, that a major chain will just pick it up and put it in a thousand cinemas overnight and maybe do 10 or 20 screenings in each cinema. And then you could reach a million people just in a very short time.

So that's what we're working towards. So that we can, uh, get that incredible reach in the most powerful way in a cinema with a, you know, with a live audience and with, with that focus that you only get when you're in a cinema. So tell us about what's happening with the cinemas in Australia because there's been a development since we last spoke to you.

Yeah, absolutely. So as I said, you know, it was, it was a slow, progressive, organic release because when we released the film on the 28th of December, we'd run out of money. We put everything we had into the post production. It's such a expensive process to license all the footage and music and all the editing.

Uh you know, it's um much more expensive than I realized and thankfully, we had enough donors and investors to to get to the finish line. Um, but yeah, Um, but, uh, you know, and I was able to license all of the material worldwide in perpetuity in all media, which is very important because then the film can just continue to be shown, uh, into millennia.

It can be a lesson for the future generations. But anyway, uh, so we started the. The theatrical release with no advertising funds and still got some amazing turnouts with just organic reach and people word of mouth. Um, but that's not something you can really rely on if you want to really penetrate the consciousness and, you know, get mass awareness.

And so it became really imperative that we were able to advertise because of course we're, we're competing with Blockbuster movies. I mean, with the poster is sitting right next to them on the homepage of of event cinemas and Hoyt's, uh, with films that where they have million dollar advertising budgets.

And here we are with, we, we had no advertising budget. Um, so what we, uh, did was go out and try to find some more investors. And, um, we were very fortunate to have a bunch of people come forward, put up some funds to allow us to advertise. Uh, and. As of about three weeks ago, four weeks ago, we started advertising on Facebook.

Um, you know, it's not the most ethical platform, but it's, it is very, very effective to reach so many people because, uh, majority of the, you know what I mean, what is it? 90 percent of people use it. Um, so we've been running Facebook ads with the trailer of the film. And we're now reaching 1.5 million people in Australia, New Zealand per week watching that trailer.

So that alone is an incredible spinoff benefit for awareness building because the trailer tells the, basically summarizes the story and the situation. So you've got millions of people now know what's going on. And then on top of that, uh, we, we're having thousands of people per week coming through all these, um, massive run of, uh, sessions in the 117 cinemas.

Wow, that's fantastic. And, um, we understand that, of course, that, uh, one beautiful couple who, uh, who were associated with Club Grubbery, uh, have come forward in a very big way to support this as well. We, we're not going to mention their names for their own privacy, but they're amazing people. And, and I say to anybody watching us that.

Sometimes, uh, we tend to be critical of people who seem to be wealthy and have a lot of money. And, uh, we assume things about them that isn't right. And some people are fortunate enough to be that way inclined. Not only are they fortunate, they've worked hard to get it, but it's what they do with it that counts.

And these people are incredible. They'll know who they are, they're gonna be watching this program. And all it took was one phone call, uh, after we interviewed you last time. It, it's incredible to think, to think the reach, uh, that that little old program club grubby has got, uh, in a very short timeframe.

Uh, and it's, uh, an absolute privilege for us to, um, to be able to present, uh. You know, in this forum so that these these types of messages and can get out to the public because the standard media won't touch it and it's just so important that, uh, that's able to filter through all these mediums that, yeah, we're not comfortable using either, uh, Facebook and the like, but, uh, they're, unfortunately, they're a necessity at the moment for us to, to reach people that, uh, we otherwise wouldn't, uh, you know, Yeah.

Well, look, this is a, it's an, it's an incredible collaboration. Like, you know, the film itself having 2000 people helped to crowdfund it, uh, 25 people interviewed 23 videographers, three editors, and the list goes on and all, all of this collaboration. And it reminds me of this, uh, lovely quote from Julian Assange, where he said there is unity in the oppression and there must be absolute unity and determination in the response.

So he, being the one that was, you know, instrumental in building Wikileaks, which was The first media outlet to really take on the mainstream narrative for the first time. It was such a significant thing. And nowadays we have, you know, these great platforms rumble and bit shoot and other platforms for independent media and telegram.

And, uh, you know, and and this is this is a big part of the news. Now is is independent media on these on these, uh, relatively free speech, uh, platforms. And, uh, it's, it's amazing that this, uh, you know, coming together of people that, uh, want to see change in the world can happen. And then the, you know, project like this, uh, a shocking documentary that aims to add awareness and, and to help a persecuted journalist get out of prison.

Um, it can come to life and not only that actually be. Be pushed out in the same way as a blockbuster movie reaching millions of people. Um, and, you know, the potential for change out of this documentary, thanks to that is huge. Um, it's, it's really a miraculous thing. And it's really exciting for me as, uh, as a filmmaker and, you know, spending three years making the film and All the hard work and, uh, you know, I said to my co producer and partner, Natalia, if we get 20 cinemas in Australia to run it, I'll be pretty content with that.

That'd be a pretty good result. And it's, you know, the, the reception and the support is, is just incredible. And as, as you said, I think Hoodie earlier today, it's. People are ready for this. You know, this is the time. Um, another thing that a scientist said is that, uh, we are the last free people. And with that statement, he was pointing towards this, um, technocratic fascist takeover that's going on and we're seeing it now.

And he was onto that long, long time ago, you know, 15 or so years ago, he was writing about this stuff. Uh, and he, he recognized that, you know, there was, there was The internet was a powerful thing, but it was going to be manipulated and controlled by big corporations and governments. Uh, so, you know, he was warning people, he was onto that really early and we're seeing that in action now, but we're also seeing the, the, the kickback, the, uh, the fight back against that.

Um, and that is, that is independent media and independent documentary making. working together in harmony for freedom and, and um, there can be no greater cause. We know there's no, uh, there's no money in the freedom business, that's for sure. So people are doing this out of love and out of compassion for their fellow man.

I know that's why we're doing it and obviously that's why you're, you're doing it. You're a very humble, Man, Kim, if I may say, and, and, um, I want to ask you, you, you obviously been thinking about what could you do? And, and I'm going to be honest again and tell you that this movie woke me up to the Julian Assange thing.

It just, um, I'm ashamed to admit it. I said this in the last time we, we interviewed, but, um, it really has brought it to the fore to me. And I realized that everything that we've been going through, John and I, with everything we're trying to push across in the last few years, uh, was everything that Julian was trying to do for the last, 20

odd years and um, it breaks my heart to think that I wasn't as aware of I should, as I should have been and for that I thank you, but I wonder, I wonder what it was like for you.

Did you just wake up one morning and say, let's do this? And what was the first day of the project like? What were you doing? How did you, how did you process that very first day when you decided to do it? Um, it really stems back to 2010. I'm sitting in the living room watching the news and this video pops up.

It's a black and white video and there's 12 people on a street corner in Baghdad, uh, minding their own business, having a chat. And there's two guys with cameras, Reuters journalists, because it's during the Iraq war, uh, and they've got cameras in their hands. And all of a sudden, uh, it's raining, but it's not rain made of water.

It's rain made of bullets from a helicopter above an American Apache helicopter, mowing them all down. Uh, I saw that video and, uh, it stuck in my mind and I I'd never heard of Assange and Wikileaks. I didn't make that connection at the time. I just remember that video. And about eight years later, I, uh, I realized that that was a video that they put out.

And so, you know, it's sort of immediately made sense. Of course, the Americans, you know, government would be, uh, embarrassed and, and cranked because, uh, they've put out this video, this damning video showing, uh, uh, obvious war crime. Um, and you know, that's really what kicked it off. And I started watching various documentaries on Assange and, um, you know, and I spent 10 years, uh, Showing other people's documentaries and campaigning for the various causes, um, including, uh, we did a big public awareness campaign about single use plastic and its impacts on marine life.

Mainly in Sydney, we had 10, 000 people come to these free screenings. You know, it was a voluntary thing that volunteer work that I did to educate people about that issue. Uh, and, uh, you know, and we, again, we reached millions of people on Facebook with videos of. Turtles and birds with plastic in their stomach and people just don't know about these things.

Um, majority of people don't know about plastic in the ocean or, um, you know, indigenous people in Arnhem Land that are living in hovels and have all kinds of social issues or, uh, you know, there's all of this stuff that just doesn't. Get covered by the mainstream or that people, everyday people just don't spend the time to look into it.

Um, so, you know, I saw the power of documentaries and, um, I thought about making a doco one day and the time just happened to be right a few years ago. And I, and I started making this film, um, day one, I guess, you know, I had plans of making a YouTube video. It was going to be a three month month project.

And, um, you know, there was a bit of planning involved, but, uh, I suppose you could call day one was the interview with John Shifton. I got in a plane down to Melbourne and, uh, set up to interview Julian Assange's father, John Shifton. And, uh, I had my mobile phone on a tripod and I, uh, did a terrible job. I didn't even remember to set it on HD.

I set it on SD and I forgot to turn it on the flight mode. And so I got a phone call halfway through that interrupted the interview. I know that's like. I had no idea what I was doing, but funnily enough, a tiny bit of that interview is in the, in the Finnish movie and, um, it's such a powerful line that, that, um, John Shipton says in the, in the lawfare chapter, he says, uh, all we've ever asked is for the states to obey their own laws.

Um, and we kept that, uh, partly for sort of. Just that unique thing that it was shot on a mobile phone and, but, you know, mainly because it was a powerful line. So, you know, that was the beginning of it. And, um, you know, uh, we, we went out the front and I asked John if we could take a photo and I shared that photo on Facebook and it just went viral.

And that's sort of gave me a sense that. Uh, you know, maybe there's a big calling for a new documentary about this, um, and the original working title was Free the Truth, Free Assange, which later became The Trustful Julian

Assange. So, you know, it was, it was very much an organic thing and I had no experience with, um, making documentaries.

I'd only Dabbled around with cameras and iMovie and stuff. And so it was really the help of, uh, many professionals that I hired to, uh, to have a really steep learning curve on how to, how to sort of put it together. You're able to tell us what the budget was for the film. Well, the initial budget was zero.

I was just going to make a YouTube video, spend a few months on it. Um, and you know, with YouTube, you can just kind of borrow other people's footage and call it fair use and you don't have to license anything. So that was the original budget was nothing. Uh, and you know, once we sort of got a lot of interest on social media with it, we started to sort of think, well, Maybe just maybe this could be something, uh, sort of cinema worthy and, uh, started crowdfunding and the budget just had to go up because it became more and more elaborate.

The first time we got a decent donation of 5,000. The first thing I thought was, okay, I'm going to make an animation. Um, and that's how we did that, uh, the, uh, courtroom scene where Julian's in a glass room at the back of the court animated by this brilliant animator from Melbourne, Nick Stimson, who, um, did a terrific job.

And, um, so, you know, whenever there was enough funds coming through, I just made it more ambitious than I was like, okay, we're not going to just have six interviews. Let's do eight and let's do 10. Oh, let's do 20. Who else can we interview? Uh, and, and let's do more animations. We'll have six animations. And then it was, uh, what about celebrity narratives?

And, uh, and then eventually it was about the music and, oh, let's license this incredible song by, um, Kyle Leinhardt from, uh, from Byron Bay area. Um, just. Because I just love that song. It's, it's, and it's so suitable, but you know, we had to pay mega bucks to license that from, uh, from his, uh, uh, record company.

So, you know, but it was the support of the public that enabled us to enlarge the budget. Um, and ultimately the film cost 350,000 to make. And if someone had said to me at the beginning, it's. It's going to cost you that and you're going to have to raise it, um, from crowdfunding and from investors. I, I, I would have run away and given up straight away, but you know, as you go, you just sort of, well, I just found that I just got more and more encouraged and inspired as I went along.

Having that support from people, um, made me want to make the project more ambitious and it just somehow came together and there was a lot of really good fortune and, and, and most of all, really, really, um, good help, uh, from so many people. Amazing. Johnny. Well, it's, it's a, it's a story that really is amazing.

Uh, not only from the Julian Assange point of view, I mean, if anyone deserves a Victorian cross, uh, you know, the civilian version of it, it's him. Uh, but your, your background story of how this has come to fruition is really, it's the castle like to me, I mean, it's, it's, it's absolutely magnificent that you've been able to take.

Uh, this, this really horrific, uh, situation and, and, and turn it into this, um, it, it'll not only be, uh, the ability to, to tell this unique, uh, story to, to hopefully, uh, free Julian, but, you know, I think it'll be a legacy of, uh, uh, what you can do. Uh, when the Aussie mine, uh, you know, really wants to do something and, uh, the, the, the gravity of what you've done, uh, from a filmmaking point of view will, will, will be absolutely, uh, uh, magnificent into the future, but it amazes me, uh, when you think about it, that old jellyfish, uh, Um, uh, prime minister, uh, is talking it up and I'm, I'm grateful for that.

But when you think about the 40 million that these grubs in the federal parliament are putting aside to sell their budget in the media, uh, when this is going on is beyond belief. Uh, how much money have, has, uh, Albanese committed to getting this out to, uh, uh, to, to market and to sale. I mean, Where are they tapping Vanessa Hudson on the, on the, on the shoulder and say, instead of trying to get their mates into the Chairman's Lounge, why don't they tap her on the shoulder and say, listen, we want this on every flight to the UK.

We want this on every flight to America, on Qantas. You know, that's the sort of thing that should be going on. Where are these, where are these people? Look, Qantas, Qantas is a notorious social engineer. It has been for a long time. They, they, they come into these social causes and, and they're very work. And, um, and this is a social cause that everybody in the world needs to get behind.

It needs to be a global social, uh, commitment, uh, to get Julian Assange out of there and see him, see him live a normal life with his family. If that's ever going to be possible, if he's free. That you just remind me of John, because yesterday I had a bunch of interviews with, um, London UK media, um, London live, a TV community TV there, and a bunch of journalists from sort of independent news sites.

And, uh, one of the polite English chaps, he said to me, uh, when, you know, when, when I sort of gave him that same story about, um, the challenges of making the film. And, uh, I think I told him that, uh, that I took one week off in the whole three years. And I'm currently working 16 hours a day. And he said, uh, well, you know, is this part of the Aussie culture?

You know, this, this sort of, uh, gung ho, um, sort of, you know, hard working, uh, sort of hard yakka thing. And, you know, with Assange, obviously, and with you. And I said, I said, no, man, you know, what, what Aussies? A really good at is taking it easy, especially on causes, especially, uh, not in getting involved in politics and not, not, uh, getting involved in any kind of activism.

Um, and I said, you know, of course, there's a small minority that are very passionate about different causes. And, um, you know, there's been, um, some wonderful activism with protecting the rain forest and, and, um, Many other causes, animal rights and stuff, which I've also been involved with. There's a lot of passion on certain things.

And, you know, we saw a million people or something like that, Melbourne with the anti lockdown protests. So, you know, you see a little bit of that, but Australia doesn't have the same revolutionary. culture that you see in, say, France or Spain. Um, and people here are generally pretty apathetic and and just don't wanna stick their neck out with anything.

Well, it's gonna be, this is gonna be an incredible saga and and as you say, this is a movie that'll be timeless. People will be watching this on whatever platform they watch it on. Uh people will be downloading it eventually I guess. It'll it'll uh it'll just become a cult movie. I think it'll re, I think it'll rejuvenate the, uh, the movie business to some extent.

Because, you know, I don't think, uh, uh, the, the patronage movie cinemas has been what it was in, in, in our day. I mean, kids would go to the movies. Uh, they, they don't do that now, do they? I mean, they, they, they watch it on, on media formats at home. Um, you know, so I, I think this is a real kickback, uh, to, to the golden years.

I mean. I remember watching The Dish and The Castle. I mean, great Aussie movies at the cinema. And I, and I think this is reminiscent of those days. I think it's, uh, it's, it's not only a great piece of filmmaking that should be celebrated, but the story behind it is, is, is fundamental to, to, to getting Julian free, but, uh, also.

To the bigger picture, all this WHO stuff, all this global, you know, interference in our daily lives. I mean, the picture is, uh, is so much more than, than, than just a movie. Yeah, well, the cinemas had a terrible time during the, the scandemic, you know, it was, um, One of the industries that was worse hit because, uh, it was probably even, literally the first thing they did was shut down the cinemas even before they shut down the pubs and stuff, which is another story in itself.

But, um, you know, uh, and, and uh, I was riding amongst that because we were at the time, uh, putting hiring cinemas and showing. important documentaries, um, on different issues. And, um, so, you know, I'm very in touch with what, uh, the hard times that they had. So it's, it's a good feeling to have a film that, um, people are flocking to see and, and we've got cinemas running it over and over.



Um, there's someone that I saw in our worksheets today that's that's got 30 sessions that they've had, um, just south of Brisbane. Um, next week, we're going to, um, a different session every, every day, every night and three sessions on Sunday in, in our local area, uh, three different cinemas in the one, so within a one hour sort of drive.

Um, you know, and it is good. Um, just really good to see that, uh, that well, firstly, that they would take up a highly political film. Um, I'm sure there's plenty of cinemas where the programmer who's responsible for selecting the content looked at it and went, Oh, well, I've got a prejudice against Julian.

He's a trader. He's a whatever. Um, so they knocked it back for that reason. But I think other cinemas looked at it and went, Oh, great. You know, something meaningful, uh, an important issue. And, uh, and the bonus is, you know, people are interested. People are requesting it. Um, and we've had Such amazing support from the, uh, that base of Assange supporters, the freedom fighters, the, uh, uh, human rights people, free speech, uh, supporters, and people that want peace in the world, which is pretty much everybody, um, contacting their local cinema and, and requesting it.

And, uh, and that's, what's really, um, been a big part of how it's spread. Um, so hugely and. being shown in so many cinemas because people are, they want to see it, they're, they're waiting, they're itching to see it. Um, they're really interested to, to make sense of this story and to, uh, to see it all put together in a, uh, a nice, uh, logical way and to, and, and for other people to actually explore the issue for the first time.

Now, I believe you're going to be screening in Kyogle. Is that on the 14th still? Yeah, that's right. So yeah, kicks off at, um, Kogel cinemas, the 14th and the Willumbah on the 15th region, Willumbah, uh, Hoyts and Village and, and, uh, event cinemas are showing it right now. Well, Hoyts kicks off next week at, uh, 35.

Cinema sites around Australia and they'll be doing three sessions initially. So there's 105 screenings into the two weeks at Hoyts. And if it sells well, they'll do it. They'll do more. So that's why it's important for people to go out and watch it. Don't wait for it to come out online because it may be a long time.

Before it comes out online, it, it could be showing in cinemas for six months or longer. It's, uh, it's possible. And, and that's the best place to see it, not not watch it on a tiny screen at home and with all the distractions, but come and sit in a group of people like-minded people and see it on a big screen where it's, it's, uh, the most powerful that it can be.

Um, so yeah, lots of cinemas showing it. And, um. Also, Hota on the Gold Coast, it's a Gold Coast Council owned venue, which I thought was really lovely. But the council were willing to take a side because the film takes a side. It's um, we give, you know, it's, it's not a neutral perspective because what, you know, we shouldn't be neutral in, in a position situation of oppression.

Um, so, you know, this is, this is a persecution, a torture of a human being. It's not right to, you know, give 50 percent of the time to his oppressors and 50 percent of the time to, uh, his supporters. What we do instead is give one minute to Hillary Clinton and others and we give 127 minutes to his supporters.

Well, Hillary Clinton, I was just going to say, Woody, the Montreal Theatre's got it on the 10th, Sunday at the 10th. That's this coming Sunday at 2 p. m. in Tumut, in Tumut. Yeah, I had fun learning my Aussie geography throughout this, you know, we get bookings in these all over Australia and such a big country, of course, and, um, places I've never heard of.

And, and, and there's little cinemas everywhere. And there's Because there's, you know, little communities of five or 10, 000 people that that are within reach of them. Um, and it's, it's, you know, lovely to see these remote places, um, way up the top of Northern Territory. And, you know, you, you, you look up the photo of the cinema because you've never heard of it or anything.

And, um, you know, you see like the earth is red. Uh, at the front of the cinema, it's red, red earth, um, and, and all of these remote places, but they are getting, uh, quite often getting a full house in the middle of nowhere. Um, because, uh, there's, there's people that want to know the truth about this and they're, and they're all spreading the word and flocking to it.

All you Gold Coasters go to HOTA, which stands for the home of the arts. It's a beautiful entertainment complex. Uh, near, it's in Bundle, where the Gold Coast City Council Chambers were, or still are, I'm not too sure now. But go along there, I mean, pack the joint out, because there's a whole bunch of you there, and a lot of you are awake.

So get along there, grab a choc top and a, and a box of popcorn, and sit down and, and support this movie, and get your friends to keep going, and they'll keep screening it as long as people turn up, so. You know, when you think 350,000 doesn't get you a big box office movie anywhere in the world, this is incredible.

This is absolutely incredible. And you're supporting this amazing man as well. So, um, Johnny, any final comments? Well, no, just good luck with it, uh, Kim. I hope it, uh, I hope it's taken up by more and more cinemas and, uh, Alba. Albo, I hope you're watching. I hope, uh, the Australian government, uh, tips in a bit of money to help.

I mean, they're, they're very good at helping the film industry. I have been over the years. Uh, so, here's an opportunity. This is going to be a, a world renowned, uh, film. And, uh, I think the Australian government should be supporting it. Kim, have you had anyone of political note approach you about it? Uh, well, yeah, we've had a lot of interest and support.

Uh, I like your optimism there, John, with Albanese funding the film, uh, that sounds like a pipe dream, but, uh, you know, we, we do need more investors. We have to keep rolling it out. We do need to find a new one or two new investors each week. Um, so far so good. We had three come on this week, so I'm just so excited about this.

I mean, I pinch myself every day, you know, opening the homepage of events, cinemas and hoists and there's the poster up there. It's, it's a dream come true for a filmmaker that just wanted to, you know, add a little bit of weight to the campaign. Um, but you know, Albanese, um, sometimes I, I, I say really scathing things in interviews because I get really cranky and fired up, but.

But I'm trying to, uh, be encouraging and positive and because I know that, uh, I know that he, he does. Somewhere in there, support Assange and know that it's the right thing. You know, this is what I'm told from conversations with people that have spoken to him personally. I think what's going on is he's either being threatened against it, which, you know, don't forget this is the, Biggest scariest empire that's ever existed on the planet is the US government and the, you know, CIA and et cetera.

So he's either being threatened or he's being, uh, you know, bribed, uh, or he's torn between his political future and doing the right thing. And I just want to say to, to Anthony Albanese, um, you know, think about how you're going to be remembered. No, one's really going to remember. You know what you did as a prime minister, because, you know, you're too limited with what you can do.

Um, there's too much, you know, corporate interests and, and us and us control over, over what the, what Australia does. But one thing you can do that you'll be remembered forever is just, just to one day pipe up and say, this is our citizen. As Julian Assange is an Australian hero. He's protecting our right to know, you know, what's going on, uh, free this man today.

Give him back. He's our citizen, you know, have the guts to do that. No matter what, it doesn't matter what they do to you, like making this film, it's a risk. Anything could happen to me. But I decided to take it because Assange took a risk 10 times bigger than any of us is ever going to take and he suffered for.

So it's a small thing for me to just bung up a film that has some classified material in it. Uh, you know, Assange is the one they're going after because he's smarter than all of them. So. You know, put things in a perspective, Albanese, and just, um, you know, do something you'll be remembered for and that you'll be proud of.

Uh, and that future generations will remember you for doing well, look, even if you want to do something himself, uh, look, Albanese, you can tap some of these, uh, outspoken, uh, actors on the, on the shoulder and, you know, maybe they could assist, uh, you know, there's lots of people out there, Russell Crowe for one, uh, that is, is very supportive of a lot of different things.

So, I mean, they've, they've got out of the film industry, haven't they? Some of these people asked Russell for help and he said, no, I probably am not supposed to. Reveal that. But, you know, Russell, no, I won't go on. But look, um, you know, uh, you asked, um, Graham about, uh, political interest and stuff. Um, yeah, in the film you have.

Former MP George Christensen, and we've got a couple of Greens Party members, David Shoebridge and Peter Wish Wilson. We have the US politicians, Jill Stein and Robert F. Kennedy, who are both in the running for president. Um, and in Australia, we've just had a lot of support, of course, from the Greens. We've got, um, One Nation.

Uh, I guess this is all going to scare the, the, the, you know, Aussie government if they hear all this, but look, One Nation is watching the film at the moment. They want to help. A1 are watching it. Um, they're all getting on board. So this is a massive movement that's happening. And, you know, of course, all of these freedom fighter influences that are backing it up and helping it spread out.

And I don't agree with the views of, of, of everybody. I, I don't, I don't agree with certain things that, uh, that Floyd Hanson or, or, you know, Ricardo Bose says it doesn't matter because we all agree a science should be freed. So I'll happily sit down to, You know, sit down with, uh, on a panel with someone that, you know, I'm, I'm vegan, but I'll sit down with someone that promotes eating meat and anything else.

Uh, we can have opposite views on all sorts of things, but if we agree that Asan should be free, happy to sit down because this is what we need to do. This is the essence of free speech is that you, you talk to people, uh, who have views that you don't agree with. Absolutely. And that's one thing that could unite everybody at this time is, uh, I can't imagine too many people in the freedom movement not smiling if Julian is released.

But, you know, politically speaking for where Albanese is concerned, the Rudd Gillard, Rudd years were tumultuous as were the Abbott. And, um, Thurmbull and, uh, Morrison years for Liberal. But the one thing that, um, that, uh, Kevin Rudd will be remembered for is the apology. The one thing that, uh, Julia Gillard will be remembered for is the, uh, Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Childhood Sexual Abuse.

That was, if she was just put into office just to, just to start that process off, it was well worth it. So, um, Albanese, here's your time to shine. You may not be there after the next election. Uh, you know, the knives are out in your own party as they are all the time and both sides of the political arena.

But now's your opportunity to do something. And look, who cares about orcas? Who cares about submarines? We're probably not going to see them anyway, and we can't afford them. Get Assange out and let's get this thing happening. So, um, I think it's time. And seeing you said, amen. I think it's time that, that, uh, I closed it with a prayer, if you're happy.

Yeah, if you wouldn't mind, just if I could give a quick plug to this Sydney event, um, that's happening on Tuesday, Tuesday night, this coming Tuesday, 12th of March at Event Cinemas, George Street, where we're aiming for our biggest turnout so far. We've got amazing panel with Maria Z, independent journalist, uh, David Shoebridge from the Greens, and also, um, um, David McBride, who is a hero in his own right.

He's. He's the Afghan war whistleblower whose videos that he exposed were featured on four corners a couple of years ago. Uh, he was actually due to be sentenced. On this coming Tuesday, and he's only able to come to the panel to attend the event because they've adjourned that that sentencing. And so he's due to be actually put carded off to Long Bay prison or one of the prisons.

Um, so he'll be there on the panel. And so, you know, it's going to be an incredibly insightful night with the film. Plus there's some amazing panel of, uh, insightful people and really urge people, anyone that's within reach of Sydney, come along to event cinemas, George street this Tuesday, and you can get tickets on event cinemas website.

Fantastic stuff. And before I pray just to highlight the madness that is government in Australia today. I hope. I want to, uh, recant, uh, recap on a, on a message I got from one of the Hoodies Heroes women in WA today, uh, which just typifies it all. Um, you know, I know you're a vegan and, and, uh, meat eating and all that sort of stuff, I know this, mate, but, uh, our, our farming agricultural industry is really copying it.

At the moment over in Western Australia, Um, there is a huge drought and incredibly high temperatures and small sheep farmers and wheat farmers are really struggling. Their, their tanks are dry, their dams are dry. And sheep farmers, for example, are getting a dollar a sheep if they can get them to market.

And it costs three dollars to get them there. This lady is a small holding and, uh, she obviously produces sheep for meat and wool. And, um, the large abattoirs now are not handling small producers. They're saying they're not, not interested in dealing with that processing. And, uh, so, farmers are now wandering around shooting their sheep because it's cheaper for a bullet than to do anything else.

Now, the world is hungry and a lot of people still eat meat. And, uh, we're paying 25 a kilo for lamb in supermarkets. And that's a cheap price. And yet there are sheep being shot. And here's the weird thing. The government in Western Australia, and I'm sure it applies everywhere, will not allow farmers to kill their own meat on their own property.

So it's illegal for you to kill your own sheep and eat them if that's your, if that's the way you feed yourself. Now, why I'm talking about that is not about meat and all this other stuff. I'm talking about the idiocy of bureaucracies that keep working at odds with each other. It's like the picture behind John, the situation in Korokai was crazy because all these different bureaucracies at that time were all fighting against one another over who can do what.

We've got homeless people living, living in cars because of the mandates that kept them from working in hospitals as nurses. And because they're living in their cars with their kids, the Department of Child Protection comes along and takes their kids off them and they're put into foster care, what could possibly go wrong?

And I mean, so we're, we're stuck in this situation where local government is applying bylaws to people who are homeless. We're not allowed to, I've got acreage, I'm not allowed to have anyone stay on the farm in a caravan or a tiny home, you know, because of local government bylaws and restrictions. And yet we've got people sleeping in cars.

I mean, the whole thing is just inside out and upside down. So it's not about, as I said, the meat or whatever, whether you're vegan or you eat meat, that's irrelevant. What it is, is about. You can't buy anything on a supermarket shelf without paying through the nose for it if you can get it. I went into a supermarket the other day and the half the shelves were empty.

We're in a situation where there's massive home homelessness. People can't afford electricity, people can't afford, um, the cost of living has gone through the roof. People can't afford food and they can't afford housing. And all these different organizations are fighting over control of all these people and who's getting injured.

The people who need the most support. This country has gone to the dogs. And the fact that we've got this situation happening with Julian Assange is just another indicator of that. What on earth is the human race thinking? Where is the compassion gone? So as I bring it to a close with a prayer, Lord Father in heaven, we focus all of our attention on your son Julian Assange who at this moment is languishing in a British prison, going through the death of a thousand cuts, awaiting his, his life sentence.

Will he be free? Or will he be shipped off to America to who knows what? And Lord, I pray that you will open the hearts, minds, and ears of our politicians and our people and wake them up to the fact that freedom hinges on this man's release. Because with, with him in prison, we have no moral authority on anything.

So father God, I pray that you'll be with him and his family and those who are supporting him, that you will be with Kim Staten. And as a result of the wonderful work he does, There'll be smiles all around when Julian is welcome back home. We ask all of these things in Jesus name. Amen. Um, keep us up to date if you will, mate, I'm sorry.

I can't be at Kyogle. Johnny and I will be in Canberra, uh, peering at the Senate about the, uh, Royal commission, uh, into, uh, COVID responses. So that'll be interesting. And, uh, otherwise we'd have been there. You did extend an invitation to me. It's my closest cinema is Kyogle. I would have been there with bells on.

So please come back to us, uh, Kim, and let us know what's going on. You're welcome on the program anytime. And we just want to tip our hat to you, my friend. Well, thank you very much, Graham and John. And, um, I think there'll be quite a few more sessions at Kyogle. So hopefully we'll have you along another time and keep up the great work you guys are doing for various causes and, uh, uh, yeah, love to come on again with an update, um, sometime in the near future.

I wonder if you'll ever get sick of watching your own film. Uh, yeah, I thought that would happen, but, but, um, I, I seem to enjoy just hearing the response because people clap during the film and they laugh, uh, you know, it's, it's not a comedy, but there's a few funny lines and, um, you know, I just, I really enjoy seeing that response.

And I also like. I'd like to look down on the aisle and see people's emotion because I know that the film's touching them and, um, you know, so I do, I do still sit in, sit in on a lot of the, the sessions, um, to, to sort of witness that. Well, well done, my friend. And, uh, thanks for coming on the program. Uh, you've got a long flight ahead of you.

Good luck in Auckland. Johnny, you've often been heard to say. You just couldn't make this stuff up. You really couldn't make this stuff up. Stay out of the trees, everybody. For goodness sake, be compassionate and kind to one another and spare a thought. And if you're a person of faith, please pray for Julian Assange.

We've got to get him out. God bless you all. Thanks for watching Club Grubbery. Back next week with an amazing round of interviews, a full week next week. Thankfully, we've had a lean week this week, but thanks for your continued support. And we're going to keep going as long as we can. And, uh, we aren't going to stop, are we, Johnny?

No. No. Took you a while to answer that. All right. Thanks everybody and bye for now.