

# Guiding light takes her rightful place

**PATRICK GEE**

A RECENT St Mary's graduate has been immortalised by statue that honours the 19th century Irish woman seen as a champion of education.

Ben Tolhurst's 1.5m dolerite statue of Nano Nagle, known as the lady with the lantern, was unveiled at the school yesterday.

And although the statue depicts Nagle, the model for it was former head prefect Holly Andree.

Tolhurst used a photo of Ms Andree wearing traditional clothing from Nagle's era and a mould of Ms Andree's face to sculpt the figure.

St Mary's Principal Helen Spencer said the accuracy and resemblance of Ms Andree's face was surprising.

"I don't know that anybody expected it to look as much a likeness of her as it does."

Ms Spencer said Nagle founded the order of the presentation sisters who established the school 150 years ago. When the government banned education for Irish Catholics, Nagle went underground to set up schools.



**LADY WITH LANTERN:** Sculptor Ben Tolhurst, 37, of Hastings, with his statue of Nano Nagle at St Mary's College.

Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE

# Ex-Don guilty of bashing

**ANEKA SIMONIS**

A DISGRACED former AFL player who sold his footy medals to fund his alcohol and gambling addiction has been convicted over an assault of a woman who took him in while he was homeless.

Former Essendon player Andrew Lovett's fall from grace was played out in court yesterday as he pleaded guilty to the assault, which left the woman battered and bruised.

The court heard Lovett, 35, a recreational drug user, re-



**SET FREE:** Andrew Lovett

peatedly grabbed the young mother by the throat and threw her to the ground at a home in the Victorian town of

Rye on August 4 last year.

The assault was sparked after Lovett accused the victim of betraying him after he went through her text messages and found she had told a friend he had sold his footy medals and mobile phone to support his gambling and drinking habits.

The court heard Lovett hurled her mobile at the ground, grabbed her by the neck and threw her to the ground while her baby slept in a nearby room.

Every time she managed to get to her feet, Lovett grabbed

her and threw her down again.

The court heard the victim hit Lovett in self-defence. The father of three then threw her to the couch and held her down.

"I was angry," he told police. "I was trying to calm her down."

She was left with injuries to her neck and chest.

Lovett was ordered to pay a \$2500 fine but allowed to go free.

His lawyer, Bernie Balmer, argued Lovett is a "good citizen who made a poor decision"

and should be spared conviction so he could pursue mentoring opportunities.

Magistrate Charles Tan denied the request, describing Lovett's attack as a serious breach of trust.

"She (the victim) was nice enough to take him in when he needed a place to stay. There are no excuses for such a significant assault," he told the court.

Lovett played 88 games for Essendon from 2005-09. He scored 93 goals and received the best-on-field medal in the 2005

Anzac Day match. He moved to St Kilda at the end of 2009.

But his career crashed and burned before he could play a game after he was accused of rape.

He was acquitted of the charges but never returned to the league.

Last year he signed with the Sorrento Sharks but quit after just five games.

The prestigious Anzac Day medal was among those he sold to pay for his gambling, drinking and drug habits, the court heard.

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