

I'm not a robot



As work began on the Weekly Wausonian Wednesday, a major story emerged: sources are saying WAOW has made some drastic cuts to its staff.Fewer than half the news staff listed on WAOW's page in October are listed now. And that includes a pretty important name: Melissa Langbehn. Langbehn on her Facebook page posted a goodbye and thank you for her viewers after 34 years on the air. She didn't comment in her post on the situation at WAOW and didn't characterize her departure. According to its own website, WAOW is down to five news staff, three meteorologists and one sports director. An archive search of their staff page from September showed 12 news staff and two sports staff. (The same number of meteorologists.) They also removed a memorial listing for Neena Pacholke, who had been listed with 1995-2022 on the site back in September. Quincy Media Group owned WAOW from 2001 to 2021, when the station was sold to Allen Media Broadcasting, according to WAOW's timeline. AMG made headlines this year for announcing a series of layoffs which included The Weather Channel. WAOW is an affiliate of the Madison station, but sources tell The Wausonian that more of its operations are being run out of the Madison station now.Commenters online have said they are now switching stations because they're seeing less local news. Subscribers had plenty to read this week: A guy might find it a little uncomfortable to walk into Norwegian Wood for the first time, since the first floor is largely a women's clothing shop.It's that time of the month again. We at The Wausonian think Wausau is pretty interesting after dark, and this monthly tavern report gives us an inside look. This post is available only to paid subscribers of The Wausonian.During the height of the Foundry on Third controversy, Terrence Wall called out the council members who opposed him.Turkey Trot sees record numbers: Runners joining the United Way's Turkey Trot raised a record amount of money. The event saw 2,202 runners for the event which typically is capped at 2,000 runners, and they raised \$86,000 for the United Way's causes. Beating conviction: A Rothschild man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his role as one of three young men to beat a 61-year-old man to death in Stevens Point. Arlin Sangster will also serve five years on supervision for his role in the beating. Christian Emerson and Brandon Boehm, also of Wausau are accused of beating the man to death. A trial is set for January for Emerson, and Boehm's case is still in the pre-trial phase. More of a guide, really: The city's Economic Development Committee approved a guide for the north riverfront area after attempts to develop a full-fledged plan for the area were thwarted by a mayoral veto. The guide helps give staff guidelines for staff when developers approach the city with development ideas. Staff recommended the area, north of Bridge Street, largely be focused on commercial uses, with the possibility of some residential elements. They recommended no more than three stories for any building. A boiling problem: Edgar residents last week were advised to boil their water after the village dealt with a water main break. The village was able to fix the two breaks, and once the water towers were full, residents were able to use the water again. But the breaks occurred right before Thanksgiving, likely making turkey dinner a challenge for some of those residents. Get 20% off a group subscription The Story Cellar: The Story Cellar opened this fall in the building that once housed River District Antiques. The business combines books and coffee (is there a better combination?) at its 205 Callon Street location. And, according to their social media, they buy used books as well. Friday, Dec. 6 The Jorgensons, from the name, sound like they would be a neighborhood church couple, but this is one rockin' group. The music is a heavy blues-driven rock with a sweet-sounding slide guitar to really give it that bluesy-rock grit that jumps up and bites you. They're headed to Malarkey's Pub this weekend, one of the original Wausau hotspots for music. 8 pm. See the event page for more. Sat-Sun, Dec. 7-8: The Nutcracker, performed by the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet, is a yearly tradition, and it ought to be. Tchaikovsky's masterpiece is a timeless classic in the canon of Christmas music. I can hear the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy right now as I'm typing this. The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet brings this wonderful creation to life every year, and it's a part of many central Wisconsin folk's annual Christmas traditions. 1:30 pm and 7 pm Saturday.; 1 pm Sunday. \$22-\$42. Check out the event page for more. Sunday, Dec. 8: I love that makers markets are a thing in Wausau. They're so great for unique gifts! Head downtown Sunday and browse the Holiday Makers Market at the Third Street Lifestyle Center (which us old timers still remember as the Washington Square building). You can purchase from local vendors featuring clothing, artwork, woodwork, food, drinks and more. 10-3 pm. wausaurverdistrict.org.Looking for kids/family events? Check out the family-oriented listing from The Wausonian's partner Wausau Mama, who puts together a weekly listing of children/family activities.Junior hockey: The Wausau Cyclones defeated the St. Louis Jr. Blues Saturday, pushing the team to a 15-4-2 record. That puts them at the top of the NAHL Central Division ahead of West Bend Power. Arena soccer: The central Wisconsin Conquerors pre-season match against the Milwaukee Wave had to be rescheduled, according to the team's Facebook page. The new indoor arena soccer team kicks off its first regular season game Dec. 14 against the Minnesota Blizzard. Girls hockey: The Central Wisconsin Storm is off to a blistering start this year, winning all three games including the two Thanksgiving weekend Gobler Cup matchups. The Storm beat Wisconsin Valley Union 5-1 on Tuesday, the USM Wildcats 6-2 Friday and Hayward Coop 3-0 Saturday. The Storm heads to Arrowhead on Friday. Thanks for reading The Wausonian! If you're not already subscribed, you can sign up for free to get this roundup sent to you every Thursday. Or, consider a paid subscription to get all the Wausonian's content. (BTW, we will be raising our rates starting next year but if you subscribe now, you lock in the 2024 rates for as long as you subscribe!)Feel free to respond directly to this email to offer any tips or corrections. Thank you!Already a subscriber? Refer your friends and earn rewards with your unique link below!Refer a friend Continue » There have been 9 news anchors that have been fired or let go this year from their networks...and most are because of a controversy. We're taking a look back at all of the news anchors who have departed their network, and when made public, also revealed the reason why they stepped away. Keep reading to see... Continue » This is a list of Nine Network's past and present presenters and the programs they appear on, in alphabetical order by their last name. Presenter Programs Time at Network Sarah Abo 60 Minutes & Today 2019 - Amelia Adams Nine News & 60 Minutes 2008 - Alison Ariotti Nine News & Today reporter (2009-2013) 2004 - Jayne Azzopardi Today, Weekend Today & Nine News 2009 - Scherri-Lee Biggs Nine News 2014 - James Bracey Wide World of Sports, State of Origin, Australian Open, Sports Sunday & 100% Footy 2017 - Tara Brown 60 Minutes, Nine News, A Current Affair & The Gift 1992 - Mark Burrows Nine News & Today Extra 1986 - Scott Cam Burkes Backyard, Backyard Blitz, Domestic Blitz & The Block 2000 - David Campbell Today Extra & Weekend Today 2012 - Kate Collins Nine News 2006 - Natalia Cooper Today (2013-2019), Weekend Today & Nine News 2010 - Shelley Craft Domestic Blitz, Australia's Funniest Home Videos & The Block 2008 - Melissa Downes Nine News 2001 - Ben Fordham Today, Nine News, A Current Affair & Australian Ninja Warrior 1999 - George Gardner Today (2006 - 2014) & Nine News 2002 - Tracy Grinshaw Today (1996-2005) & A Current Affair & Do You Want To Live Forever? 1991 - Natalie Gruzewski Getaway, The Farmer Wants a Wife & Nine News (2010-2012) 1999 - Jo Hall Nine News 1979 - Peter Hitchener Nine News 1974 - Steven Jacobs Today & Power of 10 (2008) 1991 - 1995, 2005 - Sylvia Jeffreys Nine News, A Current Affair & Today 2005 - Tony Jones Nine News & Today (2019) 1986 - Wendy Kingston Nine News & Weekend Today (2014-2015) 2007 - Deborah Knight Weekend Today & Today (2011-2014), A Current Affair 2011 - Monika Kos Nine News 2020 - Allison Langdon 60 Minutes, Weekend Today, Today & A Current Affair 2001 - Wally Lewis Nine News Queensland 1999 - Andrew Lofthouse Nine News 2008 - Alicia Loxley Weekend Today (2010-2011) & Nine News 2009 - Garry Lyon The Footy Show & Nine's Wide World of Sport commentator 2002 - Eddie McGuire Millionaire Hot Seat, 1 vs 100, Nine's Wide World of Sports commentator 1993 - Lella McKinnon Weekend Today (2009-2014), Nine News & A Current Affair 1995 - Brett McLeod Nine News 2002 - Eva Millie Nine Gold Coast News 2018 - Sam Newman The Footy Show 1993 - Livia Nixon Temptation, Nine News & Hey Hey It's Saturday 1997 - Peter Overton 60 Minutes (2001-2009) & Nine News 2001 - Bruce Paige Nine News (1993-2009) & Nine Gold Coast News 1993 - Matthew Pavlich Nine News 2018 - Catriona Rowntree Getaway & The Chopping Block 1993 - Belinda Russell Nine News & Today Extra 2007 - Amber Sherlock Today (2007-2009), Nine News Now & Nine News 2007 - Davina Smith A Current Affair (Australian TV program) 2002 - Karl Stefanovic Today, Nine News & 60 Minutes 2000 - Michael Thomson Nine News 1987 - 2011, 2013 - Sigrid Thornton What's Good For You 2006 - Jonathan Uptin Nine News 2000 - Tracy Vo Nine News 2007 - Richard Wilkins Today, Today Extra & Weekend Today 1985 - Presenter Programs Time at Network Brooke Boney Today 2019 - 2024 Liam Bartlett 60 Minutes 2006 - 2022 Stephanie Brantz Nine News & Nine's Wide World of Sport commentator 2006 - 2010 (departed for ABC TV) James Brayshaw The Footy Show & Nine's Wide World of Sport commentator 2002 - 2016 Paul Ciltheroe Nine News 1993 - 2002, 2006 Keith Conlon Postcards 1995 - 2011 Kevin Crease Clarkson's TV Hostess Quest, Adelaide Tonight, News Beat & Nine News 1959 - 1974,1987 - 2007 (deceased) Alex Cullen Today 2020 - 2025 Larry Emdur The Price Is Right & Cash Bonanza 1993 - 2005 (departed for Seven Network) Mark Ferguson Nine News 1988 - 2009 Heather Foord Nine News 1989 - 2011 Tim Gilbert Nine News & Today (2014-2019) 1996 - 2019 Ross Greenwood Nine News, Today, A Current Affair & 60 Minutes 2003 - 2019 Brooke Hanson What's Good For You 2006 - 2007 Peter Harvey Nine News & 60 Minutes 1975 - 2013 (deceased) Brian Henderson Nine News 1956 - 2002 (retired) Helen Kapalos Nightline, A Current Affair & Nine News 2002 - 2005 (departed for Network 10, then Seven Network) Rob Kelvin Nine News 1979 - 2010 Sonia Kruger Today Extra (2016-2019), The Voice & Big Brother 2011 - 2019 (departed for Seven Network) Steve Liebmann Today 1981 - 1987, 1990 - 2005 Rebecca Maddern Weekend Today, Australian Ninja Warrior & AFL Footy Show 2016 - 2021 Trevor Marmalade The Footy Show 1994 - 2009 Ray Martin 60 Minutes (1979-1984), A Current Affair (1994-1998, 2003-2005) & Midday (1985-1993) 1978 - 2008 Erin Molan Nine News Sydney & The Sunday Footy Show 2008 - 2022 Mike Munro Nine News, A Current Affair, This Is Your Life & Missing Persons Unit 1986 - 2008 (departed for Seven Network) Brian Naylor Nine News 1978 - 1998 (deceased) Kelly Nestor Nine News 2007 - 2009 Bert Newton Bert's Family Feud, 20 to 01 & What a Year 1959 - 1985, 2006 - 2012 (retired) Toni Pearen Australia's Funniest Home Videos 2003 - 2007 Ed Phillips Temptation 2005 - 2008 Andrew Rochford What's Good For You 2006 - 2009 (departed for Network 10) Michael Slater Nine's Wide World of Sport commentator 2006 -2018 Kellie Sloane Nine News, Nightline & Today 1997 - 2010 Daryl Somers Hey Hey It's Saturday 1969 - 1999, 2009 - 2010 Vince Sorrenti Hollowid (Now a Channel Seven production) 2018 - 2019 Michael Usher Nightline, Nine News & 60 Minutes 1993 - 2016 (left for Seven Network) Lisa Wilkinson Today 2007 - 2017 Cameron Williams Today (2006-2010), Weekend Today (2009-2016) & Nine News 2006 - 2022 Nine News for lists of reporters for each state's bulletins. Retrieved from " Neena Pacholke, a television news anchor for ABC television affiliate WAOW in Wausau, Wisconsin, died on Aug. 27 at the age of 27. On Monday, Pacholke's older sister, Kaitlynn Pacholke, confirmed to the Tampa Bay Times her sister's passing, saying Neena died by suicide. "My sister was by far the happiest person I thought I knew," Kaitlynn told the Times. "Sometimes you just don't know what people are going through, no matter how much you think you know someone," she added. "My sister had access to every resource you could imagine. She was loved by everybody. She was so good at her job." WAOW first announced Neena's death on Sunday and wrote that "the entire team here at News 9 are absolutely devastated by the loss as we know so many others are as well." The station's announcement of her death included a callout for mental health resources. Neena Pacholke, Neena Pacholke Facebook "Neena loved this community and the people who lived here," the station added. "She was a kind person with a big heart and a contagious smile and we will miss her greatly." Neena was a high school basketball star at Freedom High School in Tampa, Florida, and went on to play three years of college basketball as a guard at the University of South Florida, where she was a member of two teams that appeared in the NCAA Tournament, according to the Times. Her professional website shares that she joined WAOW as a multimedia reporter in 2017 and started working as an anchor in 2019. University of South Florida Never miss a story — sign up for PEOPLE's free daily newsletter to stay up-to-date on the best of what PEOPLE has to offer, from juicy celebrity news to compelling human interest stories. Kaitlynn Pacholke told the Times that Neena, who was engaged to be married, had grown into a Green Bay Packers fan and an avid snow skier while working in Wisconsin. "Being your co-anchor Neena was an honor. You were Batman and I was Robin," Neena's co-anchor, Brendan Mackey, wrote in tribute to his colleague Monday on Facebook. "When I joined WAOW you made it clear we were going to work hard and compete with the best." "Let's remember Neena Pacholke for the beautiful person she was. The brightest light in the room. The biggest smile and the funniest laugh," he added. The most recent post Neena had shared on Twitter before her death was an Aug. 18 post by author Jon Gordon about staying positive in spite of life's hardships. "Give yourself (and others) grace. Speak life and encourage others," the post read. "Look for the good today. Remember your WHY. Believe the best is yet to come." "She just radiated love and positivity, and she just cared so much about pouring into other people, and always put other people first," Kaitlynn Pacholke told the Times on Monday. "I think she did that at the expense of not caring about herself." If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988, text "STRENGTH" to the Crisis Text Line at 741741 or go to 988lifeline.org. Veteran Nine News Queensland anchor Andrew Lofthouse has announced his retirement from the broadcaster after a career spanning almost two decades.Lofthouse, or "Lofty" as he is known by his colleagues and viewers, confirmed he was stepping down from this long-time presenting role on Monday after 17 years at Channel Nine.In a statement released by the network, the 62-year-old said it was the right time to "slow down" due to a health concern."I've been in the business a long time," the journalist said."It's been an amazing privilege and a wonderful experience with the best in the business...and of course, our incredible viewers who make it all worthwhile."I'm currently dealing with a bit of a health issue so now is a good time for me to pull back and slow down a little after a dream career."Lofthouse is a well-known face in households across Queensland, having delivered the nightly news bulletin alongside fellow Channel Nine stalwart Melissa Downes for the last 16 years. The journalist, who has a background in teaching and music, first started at Nine News in a weekend presenting role in 2009.Downes said she was grateful to lead the bulletin alongside Lofthouse for more than a decade, dubbing the journalist a "true gentleman" of TV news. "Lofty is so much more than just a colleague, he's one of my closest friends and I'm so incredibly grateful for the 16 years we shared on the Nine News desk," Downes said.Channel Nine's Queensland news director Brendan Hockings described Lofthouse as a "humble" man of "exceptional talent". "He is the journo who offers to carry the tripod. The colleague who makes you a cuppa," Mr Hockings said."The news anchor who doesn't see himself as any more than part of the team."The example he has set as a newsmen is the gold standard."The development comes about three months after Lofthouse was last seen on television on November 1, The Courier Mail has reported Channel Nine confirmed Downes will continue to present the weeknight news bulletin until a new co-anchor is named.The broadcaster is due to air a special tribute for Lofthouse on Monday night. "SO FULL OF LIFE" Published: 19:59 ET, Aug 29 2022Updated: 11:07 ET, Aug 30 2022BELOVED WAOW Channel 9 TV anchor Neena Pacholke shared several heartbreaking posts before she died by suicide.Neena Pacholke, 27, a University of South Florida graduate and morning news anchor in Wausau, Wisconsin, passed away suddenly on Saturday.5As Neena's death came as a shock, a look back into her recent Twitter posts reveals she shared some inspirational tweets and seemed happy with her jobCredit: Twitter/ Neena Pacholke5Neena is pictured with her co-anchor Brendan MackeyCredit: Facebook5Neena's death came as a shock, a look back into her recent Twitter posts reveals she shared some inspirational words from American author and keynote speaker John Gordon.On August 3, 2022, Neena retweeted Gordon's post reading: "As individuals we all have weaknesses."But the great thing about being part of a team is that where I am weak you can share your strength and vice versa. "Together we can create a collective strength."Then, on August 18, Neena reshared her last tweet, yet another one of Gordon's tweets, which read: "We are not positive because life is easy. We are positive because life can be hard. Give yourself (and others) grace."Speak life and encourage others. Look for the good today. "Remember your WHY. Believe the best is yet to come."Neena's death came as a shock to everyone at WAOW Channel 9, leaving her colleagues "absolutely devastated.""Neena loved this community and the people who lived here. She was a kind person with a big heart and a contagious smile and we will miss her greatly," the station wrote. "We ask you to please keep her family in your thoughts at this time as we all cope with the loss. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out."In a pinned tweet from April 9, 2021, Neena appeared to be excited about her new job at the station."Signed, sealed, & its official, I'm here to stay," the bubbly anchor wrote."It has been such a joy getting to be a part of this community by starting every weekday morning with you, interacting on social media & meeting you out in public! Let's keep the fun going. Neena's younger sister Kaitlynn Pacholke confirmed her sister died by suicide on Monday.She told the Tampa Bay Times that Neena, a former collegiate basketball player for the University of South Florida, was "the happiest person I thought I knew." "Sometimes you just don't know what people are going through, no matter how much you think you know someone," Kaitlynn told the outlet.The morning news anchor was also engaged to be married. Kaitlynn shared with the Times."She was just like a little ball of sunshine, and her smile was massive," Kaitlynn added."And she could just make you feel like you were the most important person, whether she knew you for five minutes or her whole life."Meanwhile, Neena's co-anchor Brendan Mackey shared a tribute post on Facebook remembering his late coworker, "the brightest light in the room."He wrote: "Everyday she made people smile, whether that was through a tv screen or just being an incredible friend. She was so happy and so full of life and a role model.""Being your co-anchor Neena was an honor. You were batman and I was robin. When I joined WAOW you made it clear we were going to work hard and compete with the best." Brendan continued.If you or someone you know is affected by any of the issues raised in this story, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or text Crisis Text Line at 741741.5Neena, pictured, died by suicide on Saturday, her sister confirmedCredit: Facebook5Neena's co-anchor wrote a lengthy tribute to Facebook, remembering his late colleague as being 'so full of life'Credit: Facebook5'Being your co-anchor Neena was an honor,' Brendan wrote to Facebook in the wake of her deathCredit: Facebook Melisa could barely contain herself trying to let viewers know he had left. Emotions and chemistry are what builds a long lasting relationship and they had that..Andrew was seen on many occasions putting his arm around people in crisis that's not aloof that's sympathy...nor does every 6 o'clock news in the city have 2 news readers (women and men) they often have one newsreader. Seven in Brisbane were down to one when Max Futcher was away for a week, its not unusual for various reasons..but I personally think the real problem with tv nowadays is trying to please the masses, you only have to read the comments to see that. Skip to content Image source: Getty Images You're reading a free article with opinions that may differ from The Motley Fool's Premium Investing Services. Become a Motley Fool member today to get instant access to our top analyst recommendations, in-depth research, investing resources, and more. Learn More The Nine Entertainment Co. Holdings Ltd (ASX: NEC) share price is trading lower today after the broadcaster was hacked over the weekend. Channel Nine confirmed the cyber-attack interrupted live broadcasts on Sunday morning, with afternoon news programs also affected. At the time of writing, the Nine share price has slumped 2.4% to \$2.85. Let's look further into the hack. Back to basics The cyber-attack was confirmed by Channel Nine yesterday, after its Sunday morning news program, Weekend Today, was unable to go to air. A cyber-attack on our systems has disrupted live broadcasts today however, we have put processes in place to ensure we're able to resume our normal broadcast schedule. See the full story in tonight's @9NewsAUS at 6.00pm. pic.twitter.com/NO3BO33U3E — Channel9 (@Channel9) March 28, 2021 What's happening? Well not much right now! Tech issues @Channel9 this morning... pic.twitter.com/yVHBbxdhGC — Richard Wilkins AM (@RichardWilkins) March 27, 2021 Nine News described the attack as sophisticated and calculated. It stated that television and digital production systems, as well as 9news.com.au were all affected. Nine News also reported that it is working with the Australian Cyber Security Centre after it offered the broadcaster assistance. According to a report by the Nine-owned Australian Financial Review, the attack was carried out by ransomware. But with no demands having been placed, the reason for the attack is unclear. The cyber-attack on the broadcaster's technical system sent news programs back to the dark ages. Presenters shared images to Twitter of their news replacing teleprompters with whiteboards. A remarkable effort by many many incredible minds to get @9NewsAUS to air tonight after the network was hacked. Here's our rundown... old school. pic.twitter.com/uZkS9Om7be — Lauren Tomasi (@LaurenTomasi) March 28, 2021 According to a report from ABC News, Nine wasn't the only institution to suffer suspicious technical issues over the weekend. The Australian Federal Parliament also allegedly suffered from a major IT disruption, leaving many parliamentarians without access to email. Nine share price snapshot Nine Entertainment shares have been having a party on the ASX lately, with lots of good news boosting the company's share price. On 2 March, the Nine share price reached its highest closing price of all time, finishing the day at \$3.07. Ten days later, the company entered into a regional television affiliation agreement with the WIN Corporation. Most recently, Nine shared the news it had signed a letter of intent with social media giant Facebook. While the Nine share price is lower today following the weekend's cyber-attack, it is still up by around 24% year to date. It is also up a whopping 175% over the last 12 months. The broadcasting giant has a market capitalisation of \$4.98 billion, with approximately 1.7 billion shares outstanding. May 28, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are having a tough time on hump day. But why? Read more » May 27, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are having a tough session on Tuesday. But why? Read more » May 26, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are starting the week in the red. But why? Read more » May 23, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are ending the week in the red. But why? Read more » May 22, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are having a tough session on Thursday. But why? Read more » May 21, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are having a tough time on hump day. But why? Read more » May 20, 2025 | James Mickleboro Why are these shares taking a tumble today? Let's find out. Read more » May 19, 2025 | James Mickleboro These shares are starting the week in the red. But why? Read more » View All Get the latest from The Motley Fool Australia on Google News. Go to Google News, then click "Follow" button to add us. Your web browser is no longer supported. To improve your experience update it hereNine Queensland presenter Andrew 'Lofty' Lofthouse has today announced his retirement after 17 years with the network.The esteemed newsreader and journalist will step down to focus on his health.Lofthouse first joined 9News Queensland as a weekend presenter before transitioning into the weekday spotlight a year later, where he has delivered the evening news alongside on-air partner Melissa Downes for the last 16 years.Watch 9News Queensland at 6pm for a tribute to Lofty's career at Nine.Andrew Lofthouse has announced his retirement after 17 years at Nine. (Nine)The pair has delivered Queenslanders some of the state's biggest stories, including the 2011 and 2022 floods, Cyclone Yasi, the Christchurch earthquake and Nine's coverage of the Olympic Games in Paris last year.Lofthouse said his time with Nine had been a privilege."I've been in the business a long time," he said."It's been an amazing privilege and a wonderful experience with the best in the business."And of course, our incredible viewers who make it all worthwhile. "I'm currently dealing with a bit of a health issue so now is a good time for me to pull back and slow down a little after a dream career. Downes and Lofthouse have presented the news together for 16 years. (Instagram)Downes described her long-time colleague a "true gentleman""He is incredibly passionate about quality journalism, taking an interest in every story in our bulletin. "Lofty is so much more than just a colleague, he's one of my closest friends and I'm so incredibly grateful for the 16 years we shared on the 9News desk."9News Queensland news director Brendan Hockings described Lofthouse as a "rare gem and exceptional talent". "For someone so respected, he is also so humble." He is the journo who offers to carry the tripod."The colleague who makes you a cuppa. "The news anchor who doesn't see himself as any more than part of the team." The example he has set as a newsmen is the gold standard. "He is rare, he is loved and he is forever Nine Queensland. "We wish him our love and support as he navigates this next period."Melissa Downes will continue to present 9News Queensland until a co-presenter is appointed.CONTACT USProperty News: 'Stressful': Perth mum's dilemma after rental mix-up.