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# Cameron Slater's thuggish ways stymied after long and painful defamation case

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Cameron Slater used the Whale Oil blog to harass and intimidate people.

CHRIS MCKEEN / STUFF

**OPINION:** Back in 2012, a full year before my six-year-old was born, I was a columnist for another Sunday paper. I'd troll blog sites looking for inspiration in the way I now flick through Twitter.

Cameron Slater's Whale Oil was a little sensationalist for my tastes but it was a fun read and one weekend the site had a teaser for a breaking story, complete with crooked businessmen, drugs and dodgy liquidators.

I'm widely regarded, perhaps fairly, as the nation's premier dodgy liquidator so the prospect that this story was either about me, or connected to me, wasn't outside possibility's expansive realm. I emailed Slater to see what I could finesse and got a

confirmation that I wasn't in his sights. Not this time anyway.

Cameron's metastasising influence was pervasive and he'd become adept at creating disruption. At some point he came into contact with the former business partner of failed pizza baron Matthew Blomfield and together they hatched a plan for Slater to use the Whale Oil blog to defame Blomfield's character.

They succeeded.

I know Blomfield. He was down on his luck when we met but he was one of life's irrepressible souls. Adversity is merely a way station to their next destination. I liked him and the scandals erupting on Slater's blog didn't match the subdued and slightly bedraggled chap that I was just getting to know.

As the stories dragged on and I got to know Blomfield better, I told him not to worry. The lies told about him were not as appalling as the truth frequently told about me. But the lies were having a toll and this unwanted fight with a cyber thug with connections to the highest offices in the land was taxing what was an otherwise irrepressible spirit.



Businessman Matthew Blomfield was not dissuaded by slander, intimidation or a gunman discharging a shotgun in his face.

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Blomfield, it needs to be said, and I am pleased to say it, isn't a man to be dissuaded by slander, intimidation or a gunman discharging a shotgun in his face. For seven years he took Slater and his cohort of degenerates through the long and painful process of a defamation trial.

The case was never about defamation. It has been a way that Blomfield could force his tormenter to verify the fantasies being presented as fact on his now disgraced blog. Slater failed and was finally impaled by a harpoon that he had unleashed, ultimately on himself.

On Tuesday, Blomfield gave a speech at the launch of the book that details this nightmare, an attempt to harm his family and his ultimate vindication. He was gracious to those who had backed him and apologised to his young family for the disruption and pain Slater's malevolence had caused.

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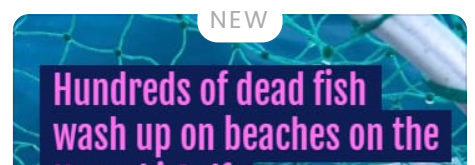
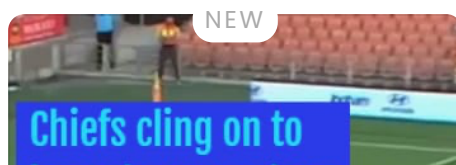
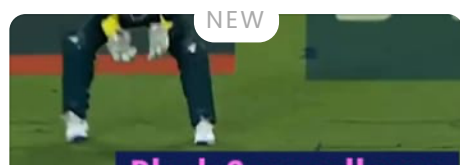
Finally he expressed a hope that the book being launched would, in the years to come, give his daughters cause to be proud of their dad; although they will not need a book for that. Their father's character has been tested under the harshest of conditions. It was not found wanting.

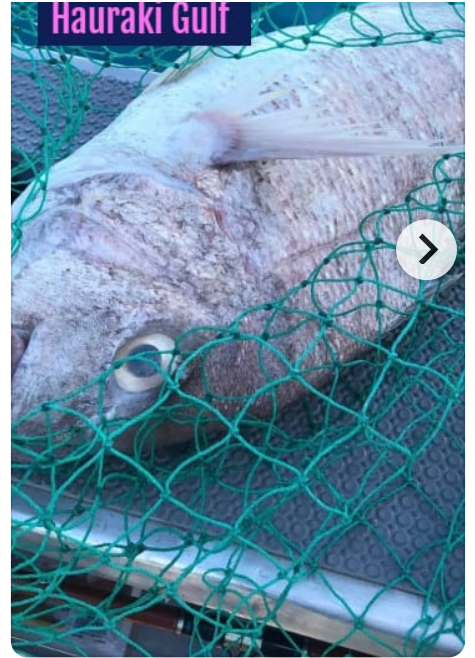
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