POLICE will consider reopening their investigation into the death of Gold Coast euthanasia crusader Nancy Crick after the publication of a new book detailing how she died.

One of Mrs Crick's key supporters has left himself and others present at her death open to the renewed threat of criminal charges by writing the account, Telling It Straight, scheduled to be launched today.

For the first time since the retired barmaid took a lethal cocktail of barbiturates washed down with a glass of Irish liqueur,

John Edge has admitted to disposing of evidence that could have been used to charge him and 20 mainly anonymous fellow supporters present at her suicide.

Mr Edge has also admitted to helping the great-grandmother obtain and hide the drugs which she used to take her life on May 22, 2002.

Queensland police said they would examine the book to see whether it contained new evidence which could lead to Mr Edge and other supporters being charged with assisting her suicide -- a crime which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Mrs Crick had suffered from bowel cancer but an autopsy revealed she was cancer-free when she died.

After a two-year investigation, Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson announced in June 2004 no charges would be laid against any of the 21 self-proclaimed "Nancy's Friends", some of whom had admitted they were present when she died. But Mr Atkinson said any new information about the circumstances of Mrs Crick's death would be investigated.

Mr Edge, 70, said he had ignored legal advice and self-published Telling It Straight. "I'm well aware of the legal implications and if I am charged, I'll wear that as a badge of honour in the long struggle for voluntary euthanasia legislation," he said.

In the book, Mr Edge details how the restricted drugs that killed Mrs Crick were obtained and how he buried them in her backyard. He names some of the people present at her death and tells how he washed the drug bottle, wiped his fingerprints from two other drug containers and threw a mobile phone into the Tweed River.

Caption: REVELATIONS . . . author John Edge, left, and Nancy Crick.
Illus: Photo
2. Telling it Straight

Media Release
A book launch with a difference

A life size photographic cut-out of the former voluntary euthanasia campaigner Nancy Crick standing alongside a welcoming doormat bearing the bold message MAKE MY DAY – PISS OFF will greet arriving guests to the Crick home book launch.

Former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Marshall Perron will launch John Edge’s tell all account of what went on behind the scenes during Nancy’s voluntary euthanasia campaigning days.

Special guests at the launch will be Dr Philip Nitschke together with nine of the twenty-one friends with Nancy the night she ended her life.

During the launch the author John Edge will sign a complimentary copy for forwarding to the Federal Government Minister Kevin Andrews. Reminding the Minister of the key role he played in the successful bid to overturn the Northern Territory’s Rights of the Terminally Ill Legislation and further informing the Minister that this act of political bastardy on his part remains unfinished business.

A copy of the book will also be sent to Queensland Premier Peter Beattie reminding him of his public utterance [Courier Mail/30th May 2002] quote:

“I understand the genuine desire by those to have a peaceful exit, but if we are going to have a debate, it’s got to be based on truth and facts. I think the fact that the full truth wasn’t told by those campaigning for euthanasia – and I’m not talking about Nancy here – I think has done their case a lot of harm.”

The Premier will be further informed that the purpose of the book is to put the record straight by Telling it Straight. Should the truthful revelations lead to retaliatory action by the Queensland authorities then the author will wear that official damnation and or charges as a badge of honour in the long struggle to introduce voluntary euthanasia legislation.

Media release authorised by John Edge. 22 Navigators Way, Tweed Heads. 0755 366502

Mobile: 0421 426 530. e-mail: jedge@norex.com.au
Date: Wednesday 20th September 2006
Time: 2pm.
Location: Crick Residence, 5 Spinebill St, Burleigh Waters.

3. Kanck vows to stay on and keep shocking

The Advertiser
TUE 19 SEP 2006,
By PAUL STARICK, CHIEF REPORTER

OUTSPoken Democrat Sandra Kanck is vowing to continue "shock tactics" and serve the remainder of her parliamentary term.
Ms Kanck said she would defy internal party critics who wanted her to quit or retire early, in the wake of her comments on euthanasia and ecstasy.

State Parliament's sole Democrat argued the party's electoral standing had been enhanced by her controversial comments.

``Sometimes when you've got something like that, you do need to employ shock tactics if that's the only way your message is going to be heard,'' she said.
``... You don't have to shock but you certainly need to be out there sometimes to get the attention as a small party.
``(No Pokies MLC) Nick Xenophon does it by stunts. I try and do it with well-researched positions.''

Ms Kanck said she had ``every intention of serving the full four years'' of her remaining parliamentary term.
``I went at the 2002 election and said: 'Please elect me for eight years','' she said.

Her views were revealed yesterday in The Advertiser PM Edition, a new afternoon news email from AdelaideNow.

She argued there had been a positive electoral impact from the furore over her comments in May that ecstasy was ``not a dangerous drug''.

She highlighted an Advertiser poll in July that showed Democrats support down to 2 per cent, from a March election result of 2.9 per cent of the vote.

She argued the change had been negligible, explaining an overwhelming backlash against her comments would have triggered a collapse in support.

Full podcast of Sandra Kanck interview is now available online
Caption: DETERMINED: Sandra Kanck at the Art Gallery Cafe yesterday.

END

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