



Nick Cummins and Brooke Blurton send rumour mill into overdrive over dating speculation

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RUMOURS are rife that Nick “Honey Badger” Cummins and third runner up Brooke Blurton are already together after the shock *The Bachelor* finale which saw him dump both finalists.

And now a love expert has claimed it was obvious during Cummins’ interview on *The Sunday Project*, that he still had feelings for the 23-year-old from Perth, who surprisingly walked away just before the finale.

Sexologist, author and relationship expert Dr Nikki Goldstein, who is an avid fan of the reality show, said Brooke was the frontrunner throughout the series, and both their interviews with Lisa Wilkinson showed signs there was still feelings on both ends.

“I always thought Brooke was going to the winner, she was the one with the strongest connection there,” Ms Goldstein said.

“Even the family in the finale Nick’s family were saying ‘what about Brooke?’



Nick said Brooke was the one that got away. Picture:



Brooke Blurton spoke about her experience on *The Project*.
Picture: Supplied

“It was clear in that interview he still had feelings for her, and that would’ve been done a few weeks ago now.

“And now he’s had even more time to think. He’s gone out of the show and reality has set in.

“It was obvious she still had feelings for him too. I would not be surprised if they were together now.”

In contrast, body language expert Louise Mahler thought Cummins’ nervousness when talking about Brooke was because he didn’t care about her anymore.

“He gulped when they talked about Brooke, because he does not want to talk about it. Not because he cares about Brooke,” she said.



“While he gulped he maintained his straight forward stance. There was no looking down or signs of caring.

“He has moved on. He talks of Brooke as like ‘many people’.

“But Nick is a new man. He is just so pleased to be out of it.”

Cummins has copped an onslaught of backlash following Thursday’s unprecedented finale, while also attracting negative criticism for his *The Sunday Project* interview, particularly over his offer to buy the finalists drinks as an apology.

The Sunday Project interview reeled in a strong 620,000 viewers after the finale pulled in 1.68 million people.

*Sexologist, relationship expert and author Dr Nikki Goldstein thinks Nick and Brooke could be together.
Picture: Supplied*

But Ms Goldstein said Cummins’ addressing of the controversy fell in line with his carefree personality, and that he obviously felt threatened during the interview with the veteran journalist and devout feminist.

“The interview was very true to his personality,” she said.

“When he’s saying ‘I’ll buy them a drink’, that’s him saying ‘I would never ignore them. I would spend time with them if I saw them’.

“I think we need to remember he has his own language, he’s a very different type of guy.

“We didn’t get the Nick we came to love on the show in that interview because they (*The Sunday Project*) were looking for a villain and were very much tilting it not in his favour, and he knew this so he was on guard and hesitant.

“I feel he’s been very honest, it’s a brutal honesty and we’re all struggling to accept that because we wanted the fairytale.”

Despite finalists Brittany Hockley and Sophie Tieman demanding answers after Cummins fled the country to do the Kokoda Track in the wake of the last episode, Ms Goldstein said there was nothing more to be said and the girls were clearly still reeling from the shock.

“What he said in the finale was straight forward, there’s nothing left to say,” she said.

“We’ve got two girls here who have never had media training before and they’ve been thrust into the spotlight. They’ve suddenly become Australia’s sweethearts because they were rejected.

“So I kind of feel like they get caught up in feeling hard done by and they’re getting on the bandwagon.”



Ms Goldstein says Nick has nothing left to say to Brittany or Sophie. Picture: Supplied



The pair were in shock when they realised they'd both been dumped in the finale. Picture: Supplied

Ms Goldstein said critics should remember how hard Cummins came down on the bullies of the show, after Cat and Alisha were eliminated following an ugly spat with Tenille half way through shooting.

“You can see he’s quite a straight up Aussie bloke,” she said.

“When he addressed the bullying issue, those women are in every season of this show and no bachelor has ever really addressed that, and he really came down hard on them.

“That goes to show the type of personality he has.

“At the end of it he was in a position where he was contractually obliged to let it get to the end, and he didn’t feel he had strong enough connections with anyone to go any further after the show.”



Brooke Blurton and Cass Wood reveal their reactions. Picture: Supplied

Ms Goldstein also dispelled the idea Cummins was dating “stage five clinger” Cassandra Wood, saying she was obviously having a tough time moving on.

“She is a stereotypical girl in her early 20s who doesn’t have that much experience,” Ms Goldstein said.

“She is a love struck puppy and it’s a very hard head space to get out of.

“You can tell, given their history and after that interview, that she doesn’t detach from him very well.

“But I do think she will do well out of this because I think we all feel sorry for her as we’ve all been there at one stage.”



Nick Cummins during his tell-all interview. Picture: Supplied

Despite believing he doesn’t deserve a negative tag following the finale, Ms Goldstein said Cummins would struggle to recover from a PR perspective.

“In this climate, where we’re very much influenced by feminism and Me Too, he is going to have a hard time,” she said.

“Because he is copping criticism, certain brands and people, even though they might love him on a personal level, won’t associate with him because it’s too risky and I fear that unfortunately will be the way it goes for him for a while.”

After six seasons, The Bachelor Australia managed to break audience records across platforms as the most-watched Bachelor season ever.

The series had an average national audience of 1.25 million and during the season.