

# Ross Warren ... the mystery deepens

Detectives are no closer to solving the mystery disappearance of TV weatherman Ross Warren.

Five weeks after his disappearance, two schools of thought prevail at Waverley CIB.

One school says Ross Warren either fell, or jumped from rocks at Bondi Beach.

The other believes he may still be alive.

Detectives say they have evidence which directly points to Warren having staged his own disappearance.

But what combination of events could have overwhelmed the up-and-coming TV personality so dreadfully he had to take such drastic steps.

Did he merely slip on the moss-covered rocks at Bondi Beach where friends found his car keys?

What could have been so horrendous that Warren would rather his mother believe he was dead?

Certainly, his mother already knew the truth of his sexuality.

Her hopes for her handsome, young son with the bubbly personality, a glamorous girlfriend and a promising career came crashing around her in June 1985 before a Southport District Court judge.

On June 13, 1985, Ross Bradley Warren, then 20 years old, was placed on a two-year bond and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment after being found guilty of gross indecency on a male person.

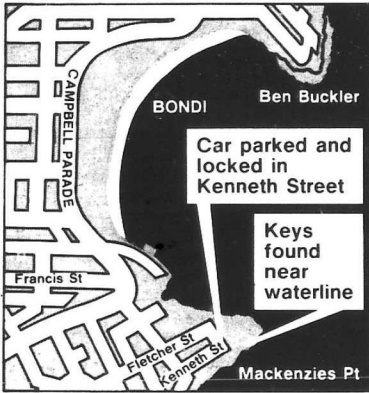
In NSW, the charge would have been offensive conduct in a public place.

Southport detectives arrested Warren and several other men in a raid on a toilet block at Kurrawara, near Broadbeach on Queensland's Gold Coast.

"I remember Ross Warren. He was a good looking bloke with a good personality. His girlfriend was a bit of a glam. But she didn't know about it (his homosexuality), she had no idea," one detective involved in the case told the *Mercury*.

A month after the court appearance, Warren left his employ as a cameraman with Northern Rivers TV at Lismore.

Station manager John Davis said Warren had resigned and station staff had at the time



## Detective tells of Qld sex charges



By Glynis Patterson

been unaware of the court appearance, or Warren's sexual preference.

A year later, Ross Warren arrived at the WIN TV studios in Wollongong from Wagga.

Earlier this year, WIN 2 Double O management enticed Warren on to the breakfast radio team.

Three weeks before his disappearance, Ross Warren left 2 Double O.

He had been away from the show with sickness on several occasions and colleagues said he had quit the morning program when manage-

ment refused to give him a pay rise.

WIN management have told police Warren was a good employee and happy with his work.

However, in January he had applied for a job as newsreader with Prime TV.

On Thursday, July 25, the night before his disappearance, Warren went to the Prime TV studios and demanded the return of his resume.

Was it irony, or did Ross Warren retrieve his resume that Thursday, knowing he was going to disappear only hours later?



● Ross Warren ... two schools of thought prevail about his disappearance.

Why would Warren demand the return of his resume, which gave personal details and his employment history? Tracing his movements would have been so much easier with it.

Later that Thursday night, at a Wollongong bar with work colleagues, Warren said he had retrieved the resume because he may, in future, apply for other jobs.

People with him that night said Warren had seemed his usual self. Girls had flocked to the popular TV personality and he had been polite.

Warren didn't flaunt his sexuality in Wollongong.

He socialised in Sydney and most weekends stayed at a friend's flat in Redfern.

About 2.30 am on the Saturday he disappeared, after visiting a number of gay bars in Sydney's Oxford St, he left the Redfern flat, telling friends he was going for a drive.

He reported him missing the following day.

His brown Nissan car was later found abandoned in Kenneth St, South Bondi.

His car keys were found on rocks near the water line at Bondi Beach on Monday.

Police have since interviewed Warren's friends and are following a trickle of leads.

If Warren did commit suicide, what was his motive?

Was he dissatisfied his career was moving too slowly?

Could he no longer come to terms with his sexuality?

Some police were told Warren had been infatuated by a Sydney weightlifter called Ken, who had rejected him.

Yet friends have claimed Warren wasn't interested in a steady commitment.

Could he no longer bear to be without the man he wanted as a lover?

Did he slip on those rocks at Bondi Beach?

Detective in charge of investigations, Sergeant Ken Bowditch, slipped on the moss at the very same spot where Warren's keys were found.

He believes Ross Warren is dead. But usually bodies emerge from the water within five days of drowning.

Sgt Bowditch believes Warren's body may have been swept into a rock ledge beneath the surface.

Others suspect he may still be alive.

It has been five weeks since Ross Warren disappeared.

There have been no sightings.

But Australia is a vast country and would easily swallow up a person who didn't want to be found.

After all, outside Wollongong, Ross Warren was just another face in the crowd.

But still, nagging at the back of the mind is the question: Why would a man who obviously enjoyed such a high public profile give up all chance of ever being in the limelight again?

What could be so terrible that he couldn't tell his mother, who he openly adored and who knew his Southport background?

If he did stage his disappearance, why would he have left the pornographic magazines in his flat for his mother to find as she, in her grief believing he was dead, tidied his affairs?

Why are detectives so keen to find the truth to Warren's disappearance?

Why was he not simply considered a suicide case and listed simply as a missing person?

Although police continue to play their cards close, they admit they are baffled and are keeping an open mind.

A murder shortly after Warren's disappearance forced them to temporarily put the inquiry on the backburner, but this week they insisted they were continuing to intently follow any new clues and again appealed to the public for help.

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