

Police search for more bashers and killers

Homicide detectives have appealed to gay men who have been bashed at a beat in Waterloo to come forward in the hope of identifying their attackers.

Eight youths have been arrested and are facing court over the murder of a gay man, Richard Norman Johnson, 33, at a public lavatory in Alexandra Park, Waterloo, on 24 January.

They eight are aged between 16 and 19. Six are juveniles, and are facing the Bidura Children's Court.

The two adults have appeared in the Central Local Court.

Two of the juveniles have been remanded in custody.

All the others charged have been released on bail.

All names have been suppressed — those of the juveniles by Children's Court rules, and the others by court order.

Police allege that the youths read Johnson's telephone number on the toilet wall and lured him there, where they were waiting.

The post mortem showed Johnson died from a ruptured liver. He also sustained other severe injuries.

Applying for bail, counsel for two of the youths, Year 11 students, described them as high academic achievers and the captains of sporting teams.

Outside the court, homicide detectives said they believed a number of other youths had bashed gay men at the Alexandria Park beat over several years.

They suspect another murder, that of William Allen, 50, in November 1988, followed an anti gay assault at the same beat.

Allen died in his home from severe injuries. The killing has been known as the "body in the bath" case.

Police also said serious assaults at the beat are seldom reported. Without identifications and information, they said, arrests of the culprits remained unlikely.

"We strongly appeal to any

person who has been assaulted or robbed in Alexandria Park to come forward to help us identify offenders for those and other crimes," one detective said.

"These assaults are callous and vicious.

"Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

"We're aware that gay men frequent the area, and police have no intention of seeking charges against any gay man who may have been using the beat.

"What we want is for them to identify more offenders."

People who can help should contact Redfern detectives on 690 4622 or 265 4230.

Skinhead gaoled for gay man's bashing

A member of a skinhead gang has been sentenced by a court in Washington to up to 45 years in prison for a brutal attack on a gay man.

The basher, David McCall, 19, was sentenced to between 10 and 30 years

The bashed man, gay waiter Rodney Johnson, skipped the hearing because of stress. Prior to sentencing, DC Superior Court Judge Robert M Scott told McCall that Johnson's sexuality was

arguments, saying there was no excuse for yielding to gang mentality or attacking Johnson because of assumptions about his sexuality. Johnson was att

McCall's hate motivation and anti gay passion," Johnson's lawyer, Linda Delaney, said. Delaney is also representing Johnson. is a unique inst