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Wine and dine at Wildfire

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If you love Italian wines, accompanied by exquisite regional dishes and one of the finest views in the world, then this event is for you!

The Wildfire Wine Club will host an Italian wine dinner exclusively for SMH subscribers. Under the expert guidance of Head Sommelier Mark van der Goot, the dinner will include some of the best Italian wines currently available in Australia and a regional menu created to match each flight. Plus you will have the unique opportunity to meet winemaker, Sally McGill.

Details for the evening are:

- **Date:** Wednesday, August 28
- **Time:** Starts 7:00pm (meet 6.45pm)
- **Cost:** \$173.95 per person
- **Location:** Ground Level, Overseas Passenger Terminal Circular Quay West, The Rocks NSW 2000.

The Wildfire Italian wine dinner is strictly limited, so make sure you book early. Ticket sales close August 23.

To book, visit smh.com.au/mybenefits

Know no boundaries
The Sydney Morning Herald

Menu and wine subject to change at restaurant's discretion. Spaces are limited. Ticket sales close August 23 or until sold out.

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NEWS

Host's son beats cancer

Kate Langbroek revealed live on radio on Thursday that her son Lewis had beaten leukaemia after a four-year battle. Langbroek, who co-hosts Nova's breakfast show with Dave Hughes, shared her story on her birthday – and the day after Lewis' 10th birthday. "Sometimes we were up to our eyeballs in terror and we could only just keep our noses above... to keep going," she said.



Inside
Tony Gaze perhaps personified the best of British in the dying days of empire. He was a Spitfire pilot who returned home to become Australia's first grand prix racing car driver.
Timelines – page 36

Crime Up to 80 believed murdered

Public help sought with evidence of gay-hate killings

■ Rick Feneley

Homicide detectives have revealed they are reviewing two gay-hate murders and two disappearances on the Bondi cliff tops and have pleaded for the public's help to solve many more killings of homosexual men dating back decades.

"We can't solve some of these cases without the help of the community," homicide squad commander Detective Superintendent Mick Willing said.

After a Fairfax Media investigation pointed to as many as 80 gay-hate murders between the late 1970s and late '90s – almost 30 of which remain unsolved – Superintendent Willing agreed to an interview this week, saying: "I know I've been quiet until this point and there is a reason for that – and that's because we're quietly working away on it."

Police are reviewing the cases covered by a 10-year-old police investigation, Operation Taradale, which focused on a rampage of gay-hate bashings by youth gangs in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The cases under review include:

- ▶ The murder of John Russell, 31, whose body was found at the base of a cliff at Marks Park at Bondi on November 24, 1989. Police originally dismissed it as an accidental fall but, in 2005, deputy state coroner Jacqueline Milledge – after considering the Taradale evidence – found Russell was thrown to his death. She called the original investigation "naïve" and "lacklustre" and the loss of a crucial exhibit – the clump of blond hair that Russell was clutching in his hand, indicating he had put up a fight – "disgraceful";
- ▶ The disappearance of television newsreader Ross Warren, 25, on July 22, 1989. Ms Milledge was satisfied that Warren was also murdered and she called the original police investigation "grossly inadequate and shameful";
- ▶ The disappearance of Frenchman and Bondi resident Gilles Mattaini, 34, around Marks Park on September 5, 1985, who Ms Milledge found was probably murdered.

The review will also consider the murder of Thai national Krichikorn Rattanajurathaporn, 34, who plunged from a cliff at Marks Park on July 21, 1990. While three teenagers were convicted of that murder – brothers

NP22 & NP23 and NP24, NP24: Taradale explored potential links with other crimes and other teenage suspects, including the so-called Bondi Boys.

Superintendent Willing said the police decision in February to announce a \$100,000 reward in the case of Scott Johnson, a 27-year-old American student found at the base of a North Head cliff near Manly in 1988, and originally dismissed as suicide, had rekindled interest in other gay-hate crimes.

"If someone has information – evidence, I should say evidence – of a particular homicide, I want them to come forward," Superintendent Willing said. He stressed: "A lot



Suspected victims of gay-hate killings: (From top) TV newsreader Ross Warren; Frenchman Gilles Mattaini; and John Russell.

of this stuff is hearsay, second-hand. We really need direct evidence about particular crimes."

Asked why rewards had not been announced in the Taradale cases – eight years after the coroner's damning findings – Superintendent Willing said rewards may well follow the review.

He acknowledged a history of broken trust with the gay and lesbian community meant that many victims chose not to report crimes to police. But he said the police force was working hard to rebuild that trust.

Likewise, he appealed to members of the old gay-bashing gangs or any of their associates who may know what happened.

▶ **Tomorrow: Who are the police who hunted and bashed a gay man?**