

NSW Police
INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Investigation:	Strike Force Parrabell
Title of Note:	Review of Case 3 David WILLIAMS. Review of Case 11 Peter SHEIL Review of Case 31 Russell PAYNE Review of Case 35 Graham PAYNTER Review of Case 37 Andrew CURRIE

Narrative:**Case 3 – David WILLIAMS**

David WILLIAMS was located in Manly sometime in 1979. Date of death cannot be confirmed. His body was located naked and clothes folded. In a report completed by Detective Cheif Inspector LEHMAN he stated "there were no records able to be located".

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website reported the following information on the death of WILLIAMS;

David Williams' naked body was found in the Manly cliff area in 1979, according to friends, although there is no coronial record of his death. His clothes were left neatly folded, according to the former police gay liaison co-ordinator Sue Thompson. Scott Johnson's clothes were also found neatly folded on the cliff top above where his body was found nearby in December 1988. A three-line police summary on Williams says there is no coronial record for David Williams. It says the spreadsheet of potential gay-hate victims kept by Thompson indicates the information is from a friend of Williams. "This is unable to be verified," police say in their summary.

Sue Thompson replies: "That's because they have never asked me." Yes, she confirms, it was a friend of a friend of Williams. Criminologist Stephen Tomsen says Williams died in the same beat area as Mark SPANSWICK and Paul RATH, and near Scott JOHNSON, so his death "merits proper investigation".

There is no find on COPS/Ryerson/Media. Thompson's spreadsheet states David Lloyd WILLIAMS was found naked at the bottom of a cliff at Manly in 1979. Specific date unknown. The Source who provided the information was a friend called 'Dave Davies.' Attempts to obtain a death certificate have been unsuccessful as a date of birth is not provided for the deceased. Further enquiries to identify 'Dave DAVIES' is the only other option.

No "K" number for GRR. Marinela MARIC forwarded the request to state archives however they have no records available. Overall there are no records available from the Coroner's, Police Holdings or State archives.

Further investigations into locating documents relating to the death of WILLIAMS have been completed through Police Holdings, Ryerson Index and Media Articles. Searches were completed

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on any possible date of birth, possible misspelling of name and date of death of WILLIAMS. Currently no information has been located.

Case 11 – Peter SHEIL

Peter SHEIL was located in Gordon's Bay in April 1983. Gordon's Bay was also known as Thompsons Bay. SHEIL's body was located without any trousers on. It's alleged these trousers were located neatly folded; however, family corrected this and stated his fly was undone. In all Reports there was never an exact date of death for SHEIL. In the Report of Detective Chief Inspector LEHMAN he states "Records were unable to be located regarding this case".

After examination of the Sydney Morning Herald dated 02 May 1983 a death notice was located which reads:

SHEIL, Peter John – April 28,
1983, of Clovelly, dearly loved
Son of Peter and Patricia. Loved
Brother of Christopher, Hugh,
Robert and Margaret. May he
rest in peace.
For funeral arrangements
watch these columns.
(See Attached)

A death certificate has been requested through I_Ask7375401. This has not yet been received.

Ann LAMBINO, the registrar at the New South Wales Coroner's Court Informed there was material from the NSW State Coroners available at the government records repository, Kingswood. The documents related to the inquest of SHEIL 123/83 on the 1 September 1983, Goldschmid was the Coroner. These documents according to the Registrar are contained in GRR Reference number K312020. Kathleen ANSETT from the Government Records Repository advised the documents for SHEIL were not in the box and they are unable to be located. Further checks were completed by LAMBINO however the details of where the records should be located reveal they are not in the correct place therefore being unable to find documentation on SHEIL.

(See attached emails)

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website which reports the following information on the death of SHEIL:

Peter SHEIL's body was found at the base of a cliff at Gordons Bay, north of Coogee, in April 1983. The fly of his trousers was undone, his brother Christopher says. Their father, now dead, and a police officer arrived at the conclusion of misadventure after an "inquiry" that lasted "all of about a minute", says Christopher. None of this detail is included in the police summary of SHEIL's death, contained among the 30 unsolved cases they have reviewed. In less than three lines, police say: "There are no coronial records of a death of a person of this name. The source details of [Sue] Thompson's spreadsheet indicate that the information is a sibling of Mr SHEIL.

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This is unable to be verified." But police made no attempt to verify anything, say brother's Hugh and Christopher. "They've never been in contact," Hugh says.

It is just over three years since this SBS reporter verified the SHEIL siblings as the source of this case, quoting Hugh and Christopher in a report for Fairfax Media's Good Weekend magazine in August 2013. The police summary makes no mention of this or the family's concerns.

Peter SHEIL suffered from mental illness. However, his mother, now dead, always insisted he was not depressed when he called her about 8pm to say he would walk home from the Coogee Bay Hotel via the sea-cliffs path. He was agitated about getting home to the hostel where he was living by its 9pm curfew, but he was often anxious and his mother was determined that he was not suicidal that night.

This ocean path passed gay beats. His siblings say Peter, 29, was not gay.

Back at the cliffs at Gordons Bay, Christopher remembers his brother.

"He wrote extraordinary poetry. It was a way to attract the girls.

"Peter wasn't gay, but he was mentally ill and he could be very gregarious. And he was reckless. It's plausible that he was mistaken for being gay while walking through a gay beat – that he was attacked for that reason."

The siblings also accept it is possible Peter fell accidentally to his death. Had he stepped off the path to urinate, then fallen from the cliff? Might that explain the open fly on his pants? But the cliff edge he went to, much lower than others nearby, was quite a downhill scramble from the ocean path, and Peter was close to his hostel by that time. The family has corrected an earlier reported recollection that Peter was found with his pants removed. It was more than a day before a fisherman found his body.

Christopher, then 27, vividly remembers being at the police station with his father. He challenged the hasty conclusion of misadventure agreed to by his father and the policeman. "I said, 'We don't know whether he jumped, fell or was pushed.' Dad said, 'Ah, we're not gunna go into any of that.'"

Peter's mother was a devout Catholic and had not wanted to countenance suicide, but Christopher SHEIL says: "We can't rule out the possibility that he fell or that he jumped to his death. He was mentally disturbed. "But if you consider the lowness of the cliff where his body was found, and the much higher cliffs nearby that he could have chosen if suicide was his intention, we think that's the least likely explanation."

The point, he says, is that police did nothing to establish the facts about Peter's death. Leaving the cliff where Peter spent his last moments alive, Christopher says: "We want the truth. But what would you prefer to know – that your brother fell, jumped or was pushed to his death? It's hard. What version of the truth do you really want?"

Currently we have exhausted all available avenues in respect to locating documents on SHEIL.

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Case 31 – Russell PAYNE

Russell PAYNE was located in his home in Inverell, New South Wales on the 3 February 1989. Upon discovering PAYNE it was alleged he had 'bizarre groin injuries'. In the report of Detective Inspector Chief LEHMAN he states "records were unable to be located regarding the case".

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website which reports the following information on the death of PAYNE:

The police review of the 30 cases says of Russell Payne: "There are no coronial records of a person of this name." It also says that Sue Thompson's spreadsheet indicates the source is criminologist Stephen Tomsen, but adds: "Unable to verify." Tomsen says police have never asked him. Payne died at his home at Inverell in northern NSW on February 3, 1989. He reportedly had "bizarre groin injuries". This made the death suspicious, says Tomsen, although the death was not at a gay beat.

Sue Thompson says any case in which there are injuries that might indicate a strong dislike of homosexuality should be investigated as a possible anti-gay killing. She says unusual and severe injuries to the groin, genitals or mouth could be indicators of "some pathology". Nevertheless, this is among eight of the original 30 unsolved cases that Thompson and Tomsen have set aside as less compelling. With the help of gay community leaders, they conducted a "conservative" review of their 30 cases last year and cut the list to the 22 deaths they believe deserve the most police attention.

Further investigations into locating documents relating to the death of PAYNE have been completed through Police Holdings, Ryerson Index and Media Articles. Searches were completed on any possible date of birth, possible misspelling of name and date of death of PAYNE. Located in the COPS system is Russell Phillip PAYNE, CNI number 9192248, DOB: 05/01/1956 (See attached cops profile).

Tasks have been completed for the death certificate of PAYNE (lask_7392194) and for the Criminal Record of PAYNE (lask_7392265)

Detectives from Inverell LAC are helping with locating Police officers who may have been working at Inverell Police Station at the time of PAYNE's death. Currently awaiting response.

Case 35 – Graham PAYNTER

Graham William PAYNTER was located on rocks at the southern end of Tathra Beach below a 50 metre high cliff. In the report of Detective Inspector Chief LEHMAN he states "The actual date of death is 13 October 1989. The deceased was a 36 year old male living in Tathra on the NSW South Coast. The deceased's body was found on rocks at the southern end of Tathra Beach below a 50 metre high cliff. Lacerations were observed on the deceased back and head. His pants and underpants were down around his knees and his jumper was pulled over his head with arms still in the sleeves. The deceased had been drinking heavily with a friend, Russell

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LONGMORE on the day and evening before his body was discovered and in fact had been arrested at 7:45pm on 12.10.1989 for stealing a bottle of rum from a Bega liquor store.

At that stage he was reported to be well under the influence of alcohol. Later, the deceased continued until the early hours of 13.10.1989. Hotel staff reported that he was 'totally affected' by alcohol when he left the hotel. The details of this death are brief, recovered from Police occurrence records. No other details appear available from the Coroner's Office. The occurrence entry does not mention suspicious circumstances or any indication of foul play. There is no indication that the deceased was assaulted, murdered, or the victim of 'gay hate' related violence.

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website which reports the following information on the death of PAYNTER:

Graham Paynter's body was found on the rocks beneath a 50-metre cliff at the southern end of Tathra Beach on the NSW far south coast on October 14, 1989. Police say Paynter had been drinking heavily with a friend on the day before his body was found. He had been arrested that day for stealing a bottle of rum from a liquor store. Police say: "There is no indication that the deceased was a gay man or the victim of a gay-hate motivated crime. It is a probable misadventure."

But Thompson says "we would not rule it out except for being conservative" – given the era and the possibility that the area was used as a gay beat, as were many similar beach and cliff locations. Nevertheless, it is among eight of the original 30 unsolved cases that Thompson and criminologist Stephen Tomsen have set aside as less compelling. With the help of gay community leaders, they conducted a "conservative" review of their 30 cases last year and cut the list to the 22 deaths they believe deserve the most police attention.

Further investigations into locating documents relating to the death of PAYNTER have been completed through Police Holdings, Ryerson Index and Media Articles. Located in the COPS system is Graham William PAYNTER, CNI: 9193515, Date of Birth 12/04/1953. (see attached cops profile).

An intelligence report states this record was converted from the CII System. Contact Crime Data Centre for a copy of the original source document quoting the following microfiche reference number(s): 890253164.

Contact has been made with persons able to obtain Microfische details, however, the Microfische machine is broken and is awaiting repair. It is uncertain on when the machine will be repaired.

ask number 7393306 request has been made for the intelligence report

Case 37 – Andrew CURRIE

We have the date of death on Andrew CURRIE as 15 December 1989. In the report of Detective Inspector Chief LEHMAN he states "The correct date of death is 13.12.1988. The deceased, a 29

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year old male, was found in Nolans Reserve Manly. A coronial Brief of Evidence was prepared by the OIC, Constable GREENHALGH of Manly Police. One of the main witnesses was a friend of the deceased – Geoff BLYTON who located the body. The deceased was a drug user who admitted to BLYTON that he had taken 25 'nembudeine' tablets the night before. The post mortem examination/toxicology report confirmed the presence of drugs in the body. Signs of violence were not detected by the investigating Police or the pathologist. It would appear that the cause of death was drug overdose. No mention is made in the brief of evidence that the deceased was gay. There is no evidence of this case being a homicide or 'gay hate' related crime. A coronial inquest was dispensed with on 23.02.1989."

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website which reports the following information on the death of CURRIE;

On December 13, 1988, a friend found 29-year-old Andrew Currie dead in Nolans Reserve, Manly. The friend told police that Currie had taken a large quantity of analgesic painkillers the previous night. There was no inquest after toxicology found the presence of drugs in his body. "There were no signs of violence at the scene or on the body," the police review of the 30 cases says. "There is no indication that the deceased was gay and there is no evidence that this is a gay-hate crime. It is a probable misadventure (drug overdose)."

This is among eight of the original 30 unsolved cases that former police gay liaison co-ordinator Sue Thompson and criminologist Stephen Tomsen have set aside as less compelling. With the help of gay community leaders, they conducted a "conservative" review of their 30 cases last year and cut the list to the 22 deaths they believe deserve the most police attention

Further investigations into locating documents relating to the death of CURRIE have been completed through Police Holdings, Ryerson Index and Media Articles. Located in the COPS system is Andrew Ronald CURRIE, CNI: 818283, Date of Birth 05/08/1959 (see attached COPS profile). An intelligence report located states this record was converted from the CII System. Contact Crime Data Centre for a copy of the original source document quoting the following microfiche reference number(s):
819002250

Contact has been made with persons able to obtain Microfische details, however, the Microfische machine is broken and is awaiting repair. It is uncertain on when the machine will be repaired.

ask number 7393321 request has been made for the intelligence report

Sergeant GREENHALGH, OIC, has been spoken to and advised investigators he has 15 crime scene photographs and is sending them in via internal mail. These have not yet been received.

Request to Ann LAMBINO, Registrar of the Coroners Court was sent again with newly located details of PAYNE, PAYNTER and CURRIE to see if records can be located. Andrew Ronald CURRIE was located. CURRIE'S Inquest was Dispensed With by Magistrate Brighton, Date of death was

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14/12/1988. The paperwork for CURRIE is located at the GRR in Repository Box – 121, Shelf - K394903, File - 321/89. These items have been organized for viewing on Tuesday 18/10/2016.

Occurrence Reports from Bega Police station from the year 1989 have been requested through Police archives. These items should also be able to be viewed in the coming weeks.

At this current point in time documents on WILLIAM, SHEIL and PAYNE have yet to be located. Requests for the viewing of Police Occurrence Records from Inverell Police Station relating to PAYNE and Randwick Police Station relating to SHEIL have been made.

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