

21-11-91

William DUTFIELD

Mosman pensioner murdered

Police were searching last night for a motive to the murder of a 41-year-old invalid pensioner found slumped in the lounge room of his Mosman unit yesterday.

Mr William Dutfield, a former jockey, apparently struggled with his murderer, tearing the carpet beneath his feet before collapsing from a heavy blow to the back of his head, Detective Sergeant Dennis O'Toole said.

But there were no signs of forced entry into the Spit Road unit and two glasses of scotch were found on the coffee table next to Dutfield.

"We haven't established whether anything is missing yet," Sergeant O'Toole said. "He could have invited a person back here or someone visited him on appointment."

A friend of Mr Dutfield, a man in his 70s, discovered the body about 11 am after visiting the unit to check why his friend was not answering his phone.

He told police he had last seen Mr Dutfield alive on Tuesday night. When he returned to the unit yesterday, he found his friend slumped on his knees in a pool of blood.

Police were examining a heavy metal object found in the flat which they believe was used as the murder weapon.

□ DEBORAH CORNWALL