

2/3

P. 109

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	<p><u>SUMMARY OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ASSAULT AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER BORN 19.4.11. ASSAULT TOOK PLACE AT PUBLIC TOILETS BIRDWOOD PARK KING STREET NEWCASTLE 19.12.80.</u></p> <p>Shortly after 1.p.m. on Friday the 19th December, 1980, Richard Slater, 19.4.11, of [REDACTED], Cooks Hill, an age pensioner, was found in the men's portion of the public toilet, Birdwood Park, King Street, Newcastle. At the time Slater was suffering from head and other injuries, and was in a semi-conscious condition. Slater was subsequently conveyed to the Royal Newcastle Hospital, by Para-Medics attached to the Newcastle Ambulance Service, and initially treated at the Accident Reception Area. Slater was admitted to the Hospital, initially his description was described as 'stable' and at 1.30pm on 20.12.80 his condition was described as 'satisfactory', and again similarly described at 9.30am on 21.12.80. On 20.12.80 Slater was transferred to the Coronary Care Unit at the Hospital and improved with treatment, however, his condition subsequently deteriorated and he died at 5.07am on 22.12.80.</p> <p>About 10am on 22.12.80, a post mortem examination was conducted on Slater by Dr. L. Banathy, Regional Forensic Pathologist. Dets Clark and Clausen were in attendance. Dr. Banathy expressed the opinion that death was due to myocardial infarction precipitated by traumatic brain damage. The injuries to Slater included a fracture to the left orbital floor (left eye bone) a fractured left maxillary antrum (cheek bone) extensive bruising to sternum and rib cage, contused bladder, and intra cerebral haematome.</p>	<p><i>PM. Report</i> R/S 5/3 5/4</p>

2/4

P. 109

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
	<p><u>CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE TWO.</u></p> <p>Doctor BENATHY expressed the opinion that the injuries were consistent with the deceased having been punched about the head, possibly four times, resulting in the extensive bruising and fractures to the face bones and the laceration of the left ear, this latter injury apparently causing the brain damage. The doctor further stated that in his opinion the deceased had been 'stomped' in the chest area causing bruising to the chest and rupture to the spleen.</p>	
	<p>Inquiries reveal that the circumstances surrounding this matter appear to be that some time between 12.30pm and 12.40pm on Friday the 19th December, 1980 the deceased SLATER left his home at [REDACTED] Cooks Hill in his personal motor vehicle, 1972 Valiant Sedan dark blue colour registered number [REDACTED], after having eaten his lunch. It was his intention of purchasing lottery tickets and certain items of groceries. It has been his custom each week to purchase 1 lottery tickets on behalf of himself and a neighbour, Michael McGLYNN of [REDACTED] Cooks Hill.</p>	<p>12.40pm</p> <p>McGLYNN T.B.I.</p>
	<p>At the time he left his home he was alone and had no intention of meeting anybody or going anywhere apart from purchasing the items as set out. It has been established from information received from Richard WILLIAMS, grandson of the deceased 17old who had been residing with the deceased for the past few weeks.</p>	

2/5

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80.	<p>CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE THREE.</p> <p>.....that the deceased on each occasion he went to purchase lottery tickets, would drive his vehicle to the vicinity of King and National Park Street, park the vehicle there and walk across Burwood, Birdwood Park to the Store to buy lottery tickets.</p> <p>On the 19th December, 1980 the deceased parked his vehicle in the one hour parking area at the intersection of King Street and National Park Street and the vehicle was subsequently located in that position intact by neighbours, Peter MEARICK of [redacted] Cocks Hill and Michael McGLYNN of [redacted] Cocks Hill. At the time the vehicle was located it was still locked and had not been interfered with. The deceased carried in the vehicle on the floor on the passenger side front, a cardboard box in which he carried items of groceries or other miscellaneous items which he purchased on his various shopping excursions. This box was still in the vehicle when it was located and was empty. This tends to indicate that the deceased had not purchased the items of groceries which he had left home earlier to purchase.</p> <p>At the time the deceased arrived at the Royal Newcastle Hospital two lottery tickets, numbered 76530</p>	MEARICK FBI

2/6

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80.	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF <u>RICHARD SLATER - PAGE FOUR.</u>	
	<p>...in New Jackpot lottery No. 1837 with the syndicate name 'My Turn' endorsed thereon, and ticket number 27278 in Special Lottery No. 3300 with the syndicate name 'D & B.' endorsed thereon, were found in his possession. Also found was a piece of paper containing a list of items it is thought he intended to purchase. Each of these documents have what appear to be bloodstains thereon.</p>	
	<p>If would appear that on the 19th Dec., 1960 the deceased parked his motor vehicle at the location specified and walked to the Store in Hunter Street where he there purchased the two lottery tickets mentioned above. Inquiries reveal that these tickets were in fact purchased from Lesley WINKWORTH of [redacted] Mayfield an employee at a Branch Office of the New South Wales State Lotteries, which is housed in the Store complex. Inquiries at that office indicate that the chronological order of numbers of tickets sold that day, the tickets in the possession of the deceased had been purchased during lunch time or early afternoon of that day.</p>	<p><i>winkworth T.B.I. Statement required S-11 R.S. 62</i></p>
	<p>The deceased then apparently walked back towards his motor vehicle through Birdwood Park and stopped there at the public toilets probably to urinate. Richard WILLIAMS informed me that on the occasions he had been with his grandfather he had stopped at the toilets on the</p>	

2/7

P. 109

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80.	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE FIVE.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	<p>return to his home for the purpose of urinating as the deceased had a medical history of prostate gland problems and had to continually relieve himself.</p>	
	<p>The toilet in which the deceased was found is situated on a parcel of land known as Birdwood Park. The toilet is located facing King Street extended on the north eastern end of the park and the park itself is a wedge shaped allotment bounded by King Street extended on the north, Stewart Avenue on the west and King Street on the southern side. The toilet building is of solid brick construction is erected on a cement slab and has facilities for both male and female persons. The male section of the toilet is approximately 18' x 9' interior dimensions and the toilet is constructed with two water closet cubicles on the eastern end of the northern wall and a urinal trough on the north western end. There is a handbasin situated on the southern wall of the men's section opposite the urinal trough. The interior of the toilet is tiled with yellow ceramic tiles to a height of six feet from ground level. The floor is of terrazo construction. The partition between the urinal trough and the cubicles is constructed of single brick and tile with a division between the two cubicles made of two inch thick cement material.</p>	
	Information was received at approximately..	

2/8

P. 109

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE SIX.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	<p>..1.10pm at the Newcastle Police Station on the 19th Dec., 1980 to the effect that the deceased who was at that time injured and semi conscious was lying in the urinal section of the toilets in Birdwood Park. It has since been established that this telephone call was made by Eric Edward NEWELL an employee of Young and Green Pty. Limited, the premises of which are situated directly opposite the toilet block.</p>	<p>NEWELL See R.S. 2/13/142 Statement required.</p>
	<p>Detectives CLARK and WHITE as a result of inquiry made by them spoke to Arthur Geoffrey CLEMENTS also known as Brother MASSEO allegedly a Franciscan Brother of [REDACTED] Islington and it has been established that this person CLEMENTS had requested NEWELL to ring the Newcastle Police after having found the deceased person SLATER injured in the toilet.</p>	<p>CLEMENTS R.S. 6 - 6/1 6/2 6/3 and S-1</p>
	<p>Inquires made at the Newcastle District Ambulance reveal that the call was received at their headquarters at 1.04pm on the 19th December, 1980 and responded to by para-medical officers, VARLEY and BARRETT who attended the toilet block immediately. Officer Neville BARRETT, the treatment officer of the pair, of [REDACTED] Glendale was interviewed and stated that upon his arrival at the toilet block, the deceased person SLATER was lying on his back parallel to the urinal trough with both feet in...</p>	<p>VARLEY & BARRETT T.B.I. re Statements See R.S. 2/17 S-6 BARRETT R.S. 2/18 S-10</p>

2/9

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE SEVEN.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	<p>the trough. BARRETT stated that underlying his head on the floor of the toilet was a large amount of blood which BARRETT claimed would probably have emanated from a very deep wound to the left ear of the deceased, and other facial injuries. BARRETT apparently spoke to the deceased and said to him, "what happened?" The deceased allegedly answered and said, "Nothing happened I haven't been bashed, I haven't fallen over." BARRETT claimed that the deceased although conscious appeared very vague but could answer questions. BARRETT stated that the deceased had his belt undone fly of his trousers open and his genitals were exposed. His trousers and underclothing were half way down his buttocks. The deceased at the time was wearing the following:- a tan coloured cotton shirt, brown trousers, brown coloured sandals, grey socks, green underpants and light green singlet. The clothing although bloodstained was not damaged in any way. Shortly after the ambulance team arrived, Sergeant 1st Class MARSH, and Sergeant 3rd Class POWER arrived at the toilet block and a short time later Detectives CLARKE and GUYATT attended and commenced inquiries into the matter.</p>	
	<p>A detailed inspection of the toilet revealed blood stains on the floor of the urinal section, as previously set out a heavy concentration of partially congealed blood under the ...</p>	

2/10

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80.	CONTINUATION - SUPPLEMENTARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE EIGHT.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	<p>head area and adhering to the walls of the urinal area, a heavy concentration on the second upper most tile on the eastern wall partition of the urinal approximately five feet six inches from floor level and blood splash marks on the wall above the urinal and also on the cistern over the urinal trough. These blood stains were photographed and samples taken by Detective CLAUSEN of the Newcastle Scientific Section. From the position of the blood stains on the wall, it would appear that the deceased had been struck whilst standing as the position of the bloodstains is consistent with approximately the height of the deceased person's injured ear.</p>	<p><i>Scientific Exam. R.S. 4 etc.</i></p>
	<p>Inquiries were then immediately made by the police in the immediate vicinity of the toilet block and at the premises of Young and Green Pty. Limited, King Street extended in an effort to ascertain the identity of the person or persons responsible for the obvious assault upon the deceased person SLATER. The ambulance conveyed the deceased person to the accident reception area of the Royal Newcastle Hospital where he was immediately admitted under the attention of Doctor BOCKALIL, Neurosurgeon, Doctors OLSEN and BIRNÉ residents at the Hospital.</p>	
	<p>As previously set out the deceased's condition was initially stable however he</p>	

2/11

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE NINE.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	deteriorated and he passed away at 5.07am on the 22.12.1980.	
	The deceased has a long and extensive medical history and has been suffering a heart condition (angina) for approximately the past fifteen years.	
	From information supplied by the daughter of the deceased person, Julie WILLIAMS of [redacted] North Parramatta it has been ascertained that the deceased has had two hernia operations the last operation having taken place approximately eight years ago. Mrs. WILLIAMS stated that during	
	the course of that operation whilst under anaesthetic, the deceased's heart stopped on two occasions.	
	The doctor responsible for the operation informed the family that because of the deceased's heart condition, he should not have a general anaesthetic.	
	It is considered that this situation that is the angina condition, accelerated the death of the deceased person SLATER.	
	The deceased was described as 6'1" tall (185cms), approximately 14stone He was a family man, a non drinker, non smoker and was not a member of any club, lodges or other organizations.	
	He has no known close associates apart from his immediate family and neighbours. He has been resident at his present address for the past twenty five years. He was until the age of 65years employed as a crane driver...	

2/12

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	<p>CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE TEN.</p> <p>at the ten inch mill at the B.H.P. The deceased during 1944 was employed at the steel works working in the shell annex.. Immediately following the war in 1946 he worked at the Transport Commission as a tram conductor and bus driver in the following years. He was also employed at a Northern Drug and Chemical Company as a tablet maker until that company moved it's operation to Sydney at which time the deceased went back to the B.H.P. Steel works inthe capacity of crane driver where he remained until his retirement at the age of 65years.</p> <p>Inquiries reveal that the deceased person enjoyed a very good reputation among those that he had been associated with. He was not an associate of the criminal element although this incident took place in a public toilet frequented by homosexuals, for reasons previously set out there is no suggestion that the deceased was in any way associated with this class of individual or that way inclined.</p> <p>The deceased at the time of leaving his home was in possession of a black change purse which he carried normally in his pocket. At the time of leaving home he had with him the sum of approximately \$30:00 in money and in view of the fact that he purchased the lottery tickets mentioned, it can be expected that the sum of approximately \$20:00 to \$27:00 would</p>	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.

2/13

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	CONTINUATION - SUMMARY - DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER - PAGE ELEVEN.	SQUIRES AND MOONEY.
	<p>have been contained in that purse which has not been located and it is presumed the offender/s responsible for the attack on SLATER are also responsible for the purse and its contents. In this connection Detectives CLARK and GUYATT arranged for the Police Rescue Squad to make a detailed search of the Birdwood Park area in an effort to locate the purse however the purse was not located. Arrangements have now been made for a thorough saturation of the area in the form of a canvas to be carried out on the 23rd December, 1980.</p>	<p>Rescue Squad R.S. 9 See R.S. 2/13/1</p>
	SQUIRES.	

P. 109

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
<u>22.12.80</u>	DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER born 19.4.11 ON THE 22.12.80 FOLLOWING ALLEGED ASSAULT AT PUBLIC TOILETS BIRDWOOD PARK NEWCASTLE ON 19.12.80	
	<u>LIST OF POLICE ENGAGED ON INQUIRY</u>	22.12.80
	PARSONS Det Sergeant 1/c	Newcastle C.I.B.
	SQUIRES Det Sergeant 3/c	Newcastle C.I.B.
	CLARKE Det Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	WHITE Det Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	MULLIGAN Det Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	CLAUSEN Det Constable	Newcastle S.I.B.
	POTTER Sergeant 3rd Class	Running Shoots Ncle C.I.U.
	<u>ADDITIONAL POLICE ENGAGED ON INQUIRY</u>	
	<u>23.12.80</u>	
	MOORE Det Sergeant 3/c	Newcastle C.I.B.
	MOONEY Det Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	BURGESS P.C. Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	GUYATT Det Sen Constable	Newcastle C.I.B.
	SYNCLAIR Constable 1/c	Newcastle G.D.
	VANDENBERG Constable	Newcastle G.D.

Date, time, and occurrence No.	Report of occurrence	Police in charge action taken
22.12.80	DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER born 19.4.11 ON THE 22.12.80 FOLLOWING ALLEGED ASSAULT AT PUBLIC TOILET BIRDWOOD PARK NEWCASTLE ON 19.12.80	
	<u>LIST OF POLICE ATTENDING SCENE</u>	
	MARGH Sergeant 1st Class	Newcastle
	POWER Sergeant 3rd Class	Newcastle
	CLARK Det Senior Const	Newcastle C.I.B.
	GUYATT Det Senior Const	Newcastle C.I.B.
	CLAUSEN Det Senior Const	Newcastle S.I.S.
	POTTER	