

SUMMARY OF RICHARD SLATER MURDER AT BIRDWOOD PARK TOILETS
NEWCASTLE ON THE 19th DECEMBER, 1980.

DECEASED. Richard SLATER. Born. 19.4.1911 (69 old)
[REDACTED] Cooks Hill
Aged Pensioner.

OFFENDER. Jeffrey MILLER. Born [REDACTED] (21 old)
C/- Cessnock Corrective Centre
CHARGED " MURDER " at Newcastle on 1st September, 19

On Friday, 19th December, 1980 sometime between 12 noon and 12.30pm the victim Richard SLATER reversed his motor vehicle a 1972 Valiant Sedan Registered No [REDACTED] down the driveway of his home at [REDACTED] Cooks Hill with the intentions to go to the Shoeys Supermarket in King Street Newcastle to buy some household groceries and also to purchase lottery tickets on behalf of himself and a neighbour William TOWLER.

A next door neighbour Mrs Dianne MEARRICK of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Cooks Hill who was at her home at this time varifies the time Mr Slater left his home between 12 noon and 12.30pm on that day.

It was also ascertained that at the time the deceased left home he was in possession of approximately \$30.00 in money which he usually kept in a small black money purse, which he always carried.

It was the deceased's habit to always do his shopping at Shoeys Food Supermarket, King Street, Newcastle and to park his vehicle either in the Supermarket car parking area or in King Street, Newcastle somewhere close to the vicinity of the Supermarket. If the deceased intended to purchase lottery tickets he would always purchase these prior to commencing his grocery shopping, and would walk through the Birdwood Park area and go to the Newcastle Co-operative Store where he always purchased his lottery tickets, then return back through Birdwood Park invariably going into the Birdwood Park Toilet Block to relieve himself because of a medical history of prostate gland problems. These aspects have been varified by the deceased's grandson Richard WILLIAMS.

On the 19th December, 1980 it has been established that after the deceased Slater left his home between 12 noon and 12.30pm he drove his vehicle and parked it in a One hour parking area at the Intersection of King and National Park Streets, Newcastle, where he locked the vehicle and then walked to the

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NEWCASTLE Co-operative Store, Hunter Street Newcastle where he purchased Two lottery Tickets from an employee of the N.S.W. State Lottery Branch at the Co-op Store, Mrs Lesley WINKWORTH.

(1) New Jackpot Lottery No 1837 Ticket No 76530
Syndicate " MY TURN "

(2) Special Lottery No 3300, Ticket No 27278
Syndicate " D and B "

After purchasing these lottery tickets the victim SLATER apparently walked back towards his motor vehicle through Birdwood Park and then stopped at the Toilet block to relieve himself and whilst in this toilet he was savagely assaulted and beaten and left laying in a semi conscious condition on the floor of that toilet block suffering from serious head injuries.

At approximately 1.00pm that same day (19-12-80) Arthur CLEMENTS, a franciscan Brother, walked into the Birdwood Park Toilet block to use the urinal and found the victim SLATER LAYING ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF THE URINAL, in a semi conscious condition, his face towards the urinal and covered in blood and his left leg laying in the trough of that urinal and his trousers were down below his buttocks, but above his knees and his bare bottom was visible. Mr Clements then commenced to walk from the toilet to seek assistance for the victim and as he did so he was met by another male person Kenneth ARCHER who was just entering the toilet. Clements told ARCHER of the injured person inside and then Clements went across the road to Young and Green car sales office where he requested an employee of that firm to contact the Police and ambulance to attend the Toilet Block opposite regarding the injured person. Mr Eric NEWELL then contacted the Newcastle Police and also Newcastle Ambulance headquarters.

At 1.04pm (19-12-80) Newcastle Ambulance Headquarters received a call to attend the Birdwood Park Toilets and this call was responded to immediately by Para-medical Officers VARLEY and BARRETT who attended forthwith.

A short time later Sgt 1/c March and Sgt 3/c Power of Newcastle Police also attended the Birdwood Park toilet and also arranged for the attendance of Detectives Clarke and Guyat who also attended this scene a short time later and instigated initial inquiries. Detective Clauson of Newcastle Scientific also attended the scene

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On the arrival of Investigating police at the toilet block, it was ascertained that the small black money purse and it's contents were missing from the clothing of the victim slater, however the two lottery tickets which he had purchased a short time prior at the Co-op Store were located in his clothing which had what appeared to be blood stains on these tickets.

At about 2.00pm that same date (19-12-80) the victim Slater was admitted to the Royal Newcastle Hospital and initially treated for his injuries by Dr Alfred BENNETT who inturn handled this treatment of Slater to Surgical Registrar of that Hospital Dr NEWTON.

At the time of the victims admission to Hospital he was suffering from ,

Large lump to right side of skull
Large lump to front of left ear
lacerations and swollen left ear
Bruising and considerable swelling to both eyes
Contusions to face.

His condition at this time was considered to be stable however his condition deteriorated and he subsequently passed away in the Royal Newcastle Hospital at 5.07pm on 22 December 1980.