
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2022 7:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cold Case Murder: Richard Slater Dec 1980 - Birdwood Park, Newcastle West NSW (Toilet Block)

Dear [REDACTED],

Re: Cold Case Murder – Richard Slater 19th Dec, 1980 (died 22nd Dec, 1980) – Birdwood Park, Newcastle West NSW

My name is Yvonne [REDACTED] and I am the youngest grandchild of Richard Slater. Richard's wife & his only daughter are now both sadly deceased.

We were from a loving family and had very lovely memories growing up in his presence – he was a very kind and caring person and he was very much loved by his family. I was just 11 years of age when he was murdered.

Grandfather's murder was one of the 88 murder cases that Operation Parabell explored in relation to the gay hate crime murders & I believe that these cases will now be included in the current royal commission conducted by Justice Sackar.

I was not aware of Operation Parabell at the time & did not realise grandfather's case was of interest in such investigations until after the operation had been completed after googling my grandfather's name & finding an SBS reporters article.

In 2018 I was able to contact a Homicide Detective (Mr Peter Costello) about the findings.

I do have several newspaper articles and various other bits and pieces & did forward those to Mr Costello to put on Grandfather's file - & I can provide them again if required if that will help.

A suspect – Jeffrey Miller – was arrested a few yrs after the murder – and there was no DNA testing in the 1980's and the case did not go to trial due to there not being sufficient evidence.

One thing I always remember my mum saying was the judge or the defence ruled that – ‘essentially the old man died of a heart attack’ - & I have never forgotten that.

One main witness who was there on the day (a friend of the accused) I believe committed suicide a year or so later & The accused died of a drug overdose in about 1986. The accused was there that

day with one male friend and two female friends – (3 witnesses).

And so really his case has never come back into the light since.

We were not aware that Grandfather was a homosexual – and I believe family members gave statements about that and while I have never had access to his case file – it is said that police reported contradictory to this from the victim of some sort – what that was I don't know. Mum said that Grandfather was beaten so badly and unconsciously – that he was entirely NON-Verbal. If there is a police statement by grandfather – I am not sure – but grandfather was in no condition to provide one – he was barely alive when found that day.

From my basic knowledge of the case – the accused that day set out - to - 'Bash' a P..... (I can't even say the word he used – it makes me that upset)

So perhaps my grandfather's case is that grey area of gay-hate bias back in the 1980's
Although family believe he was not gay (& I was too young to know then) & while it wouldn't have mattered if he was or wasn't - The toilet block where he was brutally bashed was known as a 'gay beat' - & while we will never know the full story – the accused wanted to bash a homosexual that day.

If anything after all these years – whether it is believed it was a gay hate crime or not – or had some sort of gay-bias when investigated - I can see now perhaps his case may have been insignificant to the police and the judges and legal system perhaps – with gay-bias woven somewhere within.

In 2019 I managed to track down the gentleman who found him that day and travelled to meet me & we have since met up a few times and share a friendship.

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen. I know that his is one of many murder cases – but I just wanted to let you know that he still has family alive that care and remember him with love.

If I can be of any help in the Royal Commission at all I am happy to help in any way that I can

Kindest Regards.....Yvonne [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

DISCLAIMER: This email message, including any attachments, is intended for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential, privileged and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this email in error you must not disclose or use the information in it. Please delete the email and any copies and notify the sender. Confidentiality or privilege are not waived or lost by reason of the mistaken delivery to you. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Department of Communities and Justice. The Department accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments and recommends that the recipient check this email and any attached files for the presence of viruses.