

5 men jailed for 'cowardly' beach death

Five men were sentenced to jail yesterday for the manslaughter of a 20-year-old man on Curl Curl beach.

All had pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Phillip Norman Jones, and to charges arising from the assault and robbery of Leigh Bruce Parsonage at the beach on October 19.

Evidence showed that the men attacked Jones and Parsonage after inviting them to a party.

Sentencing the five men in the Supreme Court, Parramatta, Mr Justice Taylor said the attacks were planned,

callous, cowardly and cruel.

He sentenced:

RAYMOND Richard Thomas, 21, of HMAS Watson, whom he described as the ringleader, to 12 years jail for manslaughter and, concurrently, seven years for assaulting and robbing Parsonage;

MARK Anthony McPherson, 20, of HMAS Watson, to 11 years for manslaughter and five years for assault and robbery;

PETER Gordon Barr, 18, of HMAS Penguin, and Gordon MacIntyre, 18, of HMAS Watson, each to nine years for manslaughter and five years for assault and robbery;

PETER Ernest Brown, 20, spray painter, of Tasman St, Dee Why, to nine years for manslaughter and three years for receiving stolen money.

After the attack Jones was left unconscious at the water's edge.

His decomposed body was washed ashore last month.

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