

MIRROR

Murder 80/75

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NEW BID TO GET VICIOUS MURDERER

POLICE are still baffled by a brutal murder in which a popular antique dealer was stabbed to death almost three years ago.

The nationwide hunt for the killer of Walter "Johnny" Bedser has been given added impetus

— the State Government has announced a \$50,000 reward.

The reward, seen as a final effort by authorities to track down the killer, has been announced by Police Minister Peter Anderson.

Bedser, 47, was stabbed five times in the chest in his Parramatta antique shop on December 2, 1980, after a desperate struggle.

But despite massive publicity and an intensive police hunt, his murderer is still free.

Mr Anderson described the murder as particularly vicious and said he hoped the reward would be an inducement for people to come forward and help crack the case.

CIB Homicide Squad detectives today said they are still trying to track down a man in his thirties seen scuffling with Bedser after ambushing him in the back of his arcade shop.

The killer bought the long blade hunting knife used in the attack from a sports store in the same arcade and was seen lurking in the area by four shoppers on the day of the murder.

Police believe an identikit picture of the killer, made after repeated in-

terviews with all five people, is a good likeness.

But they say a clear motive for the killing has not been established, with no evidence of a robbery having taken place.

After the attack Mr Bedser, bleeding profusely, tried to chase his assailant before collapsing dead in the arcade.

He left behind a 14m trail of blood and a mystery which police have yet to solve.

By TONY BARNAO

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