

IN the past seven months nine people have been murdered within Sydney's Darlinghurst police district.

Eight of the crimes look near to being solved, arrests have been made and prosecution briefs prepared for court hearings.

One case is still outstanding. It has been dubbed the murder no one wanted to know about.

There was no normal public response to this violent crime, the scattered pieces of information are missing as are the titbits of street talk, essential to any police inquiry.

The victim was a transvestite: Wayne Kerry Brennan, 35, also known as Wendy Wayne.

Before his death his meagre claim to fame was as a female impersonator. But the main bulk of his weekly income was earned as a male prostitute — he charged \$60 for a single sexual encounter.

He died while engaged in the latter

TO KNOW ABOUT

SPECIAL REPORT BY JACK DARMODY

occupation — shot once between the shoulder blades and once at the base of the skull.

To Homicide Squad and Darlinghurst detectives, his killing was senselessly brutal and it remains a mystery today.

The killer ignored \$400 in notes and valuable video equipment.

The television set and the heater were left on and the front door was left unlocked.

In any other environment, police believe, the continually blaring television set and the fact that the lights were left on would have attracted attention from neighbors.

But Brennan lived in Darlinghurst Rd, a known prostitution area, where people do not query habits or lifestyles.

Neighbor

A neighbor who later admitted to hearing screams and a shot failed to report the incident to police.

When police were finally called in they estimated that Brennan had been dead for at least 24 hours.

Ballistic investigations showed he had been shot with a .45 calibre revolver or pistol, rare weapons even by Sydney's underworld standards, difficult to conceal and cumbersome to handle.

The two bullets that

entered his body were never recovered. Despite exhaustive searches and later extensive tests to the carpet, not even a particle of lead was found.

The bullets left the body via the throat and lower jaw yet there were no indents to the floor or any part of the walls of the flat.

According to Sergeant Mike Hagan of the Homicide Squad it is logical the killer took time to remove the bullets from the murder room.

Detective Sergeant Keith Smith, of Darlinghurst, said police were handicapped by the lack of motive for the slaying and Brennan's past lifestyle.

Brennan had not been sexually assaulted prior to his death.

There were no noticeable bruises on his body to indicate a struggle and he had been lying in a passive pose on the floor when shot.

The dead man did not owe money, did not use or deal in drugs, and was not carrying any disease. He was also planning to enlarge his stage act.

Nor was Brennan well known to police. His only conviction was a minor charge of offensive behavior in 1972.

"His was a lifestyle that few people will admit to being involved in," Sergeant Smith said.

Brennan's family declined to be interviewed on the case.

Even in that environment he seemed destined to be an outcast.

Members of Sydney's gay community have been unable to help police.

Within his own small circle of friends Brennan was accepted as a transvestite who had undertaken preliminary counselling aimed at having transsexual surgery.

But they, like others, are unable to help police significantly.

The dead man did not have a regular boyfriend nor, according to close friend Pat Crowe, did he have any enemies.

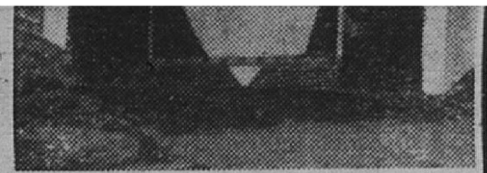
Seance

Next month Crowe and other friends of Brennan plan to hold a seance in the flat where he was murdered.

Crowe was one of the last people to see Brennan alive and who discovered his body.

"I saw him on the Sunday. He was excited and happy about plans to move the show from Pete's Beat to a new location in the Cross," Crowe said.

"He didn't contact anyone on the Monday and on Tuesday we found him dead."



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