

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Policeman Was Murder Suspect

The NSW Police Tribunal considering accusations of misconduct against nurse Paul Mortimer, by two policemen investigating the murder of gay entertainer Wendy Wayne, has taken a new turn. One of the detectives on trial has admitted that the prime suspect in the case was another policeman, whom he referred to as "David".

The police officer, Detective Sergeant Graeme Frazer, formerly of Darlinghurst Police Station, made the admission while giving evidence in his defence before the NSW Police Tribunal. Frazer and another officer formerly attached to Darlinghurst, Detective Constable Mato Strizic, are

currently before the Tribunal on charges of misconduct laid by the NSW Commissioner of Police, John Avery.

Wayne's body was found on 30 April, 1985. He had been shot in the back. As part of their investigations into the murder the police enlisted the assistance of Sydney's *Star Observer* to appeal to people who may have had information to contact them at Darlinghurst Police Station. Richard Turner, then editor, recalls detectives investigating the murder denying rumors that their principal suspect was a police officer.

The police investigation of the Wayne murder figured prominently when the Tribunal resumed hearing evidence on 9 June. In their evidence to the Tribunal both Frazer and Strizic denied all allegations against them. Both men testified that they and two other police officers visited the Grosvenor Club on the evening of 9 May, 1985 as part of the investigations.

Frazer said that when he approached Mortimer and spoke to him, Mortimer "got off his stool and became agitated and excited".

In his evidence, Strizic said Mortimer hurriedly left the premises. Strizic said he followed him into Flinders St. Strizic further alleged

that Mortimer turned round and said: "Fuck off you cunts. You're all cunts".

"There were people of both sexes in the vicinity", Strizic said.

Strizic said he informed Mortimer that he intended arresting and charging him with behaving in an offensive manner. He then took him to Darlinghurst Police Station where he was charged.

Frazer gave evidence that while at Darlinghurst Police Station he had a conversation with Mortimer relating to Wayne's associates. It was common knowledge that Wayne had been "having a love affair with a policeman named David", he told the Tribunal. Mortimer was unable to assist him, he said.

Under cross-examination by Richard Johnson (for the Commissioner), Strizic said he believed the Grosvenor Club was frequented by Darlinghurst Police "from time to time".

"It's a bit of a watering hole, isn't it", Johnson put to Strizic.

"I've had a drink there", Strizic replied.

"That's precisely what was happening that night", asked Johnson.

"No sir", Strizic answered. When asked whether it would

have been a "prudent move" to question Mortimer about the murder before his making a statement, Strizic said it was not necessary. In reply to further questions, he denied "coaching" Mortimer in the contents of the statement he subsequently made.

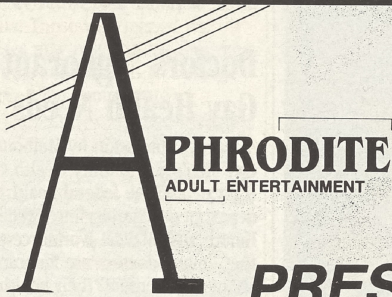
During his evidence, Strizic denied suggestions that Mortimer was taken into a room known as a tea room or coffee room. At the conclusion of his cross-examination, Judge Shadbolt asked Strizic whether this room was "a singular room", and to explain how Mortimer could, in his evidence, describe a room he had never been in. Strizic said he could have stepped inside it or seen it through a window.

Earlier, Johnson tendered as evidence the running sheets or log book kept on the Wayne murder investigation. Evidence given under cross-examination revealed that no record of the Grosvenor Club canvass or Frazer's interview with Mortimer was made.

Under further cross-examination, Frazer denied all allegations made against him, including the allegations that he assaulted Mortimer while he was held at Darlinghurst.

The hearing has now been adjourned until early September.

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"Policeman Was Murder Suspect." *Outrage: A Magazine for Lesbians and Gay Men*, no. 51, Aug. 1987, p. 10. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/VEPYNS138366609/AHSI?u=slnsw\\_public&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=d6979009](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/VEPYNS138366609/AHSI?u=slnsw_public&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=d6979009). Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.