

NSW Police

**INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE**

<b>Investigation:</b>	Unsolved murder of Barry Richard JONES at Five Dock Park - 26/09/1976
<b>Title of Note:</b>	Information of Allan ADAIR provided via New Zealand Police

**BACKGROUND:**

On the morning of Monday 27/09/1976 the fully clothed body of Barry Richard JONES was found on the top landing area of the Grandstand at Five Dock Park, Park Road, Five Dock. The deceased had been stabbed and had died in situ during the late evening of the 26/09/1976 or early morning hours of 27/09/1976. The deceased suffered approximately 53 stab wounds. A large hunting knife was found protruding from the deceased's chest.

Despite a thorough investigation the murder remained unsolved. Murder file no. 1976/55 relates. In 2007 the unsolved homicide was reviewed by Detective Inspector Robert JARRETT, Unsolved Homicide Team (see SF PALACE IN-299).

**INFORMATION:**

About 19:04hrs 23/01/2018 the witness, Allan ADAIR, a New Zealand resident, telephoned the New Zealand Police emergency telephone line '111' whilst intoxicated. ADAIR provided information during that call regarding the unsolved 1976 murder of Barry JONES (see SF PALACE TR-18 for a transcript of the '111' call).

During the call ADAIR alleged he had information about the 'cold case' murder of a 'nice' man in Five Dock Park that occurred about fifty years ago. ADAIR alleged he had finished National Service and was twenty when the murder occurred. ADAIR stated he was interviewed by detectives at the time but had not remembered anything significant. After seeing a newspaper article in The Truth he had recognised a knife in the article as the knife he had handled with others around a table at the pub that day. ADAIR alleged he knew the 'two guys' who were responsible for the murder, but did not know their names, although he recalled they told him they were from Parramatta. He stated that everyone from around that table at the pub that handled the knife that day is now dead except him. The telephone conversation went for 9minutes 22 seconds and the content was somewhat disjointed and rambling.

On 01/02/2018 Detective Constable Ross DICKSON, Rodney Area CIB, Orewa, NZ Police met with the witness Allan ADAIR and obtained the attached five (5) page signed witness statement from him (see SF PALACE ST-71 for statement).

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The signed witness statement of Allan ADAIR, transcript of the '111' emergency call of ADAIR to NZ Police, a CD audio copy of the telephone call and an associated file were subsequently forwarded to the Unsolved Homicide Team via Detective Inspector Annie RYAN, New Zealand Police Liaison – Sydney (TRIM D/2018/147768).

On 27/02/2018 the file and attachments were forwarded to the Unsolved Homicide Team by A/Commander - Detective Acting Superintendent TAYLOR, received by Detective Sergeant Peter COSTELLO on 20/03/2018.

On 20/03/2018 a request was forwarded by Detective Sergeant Peter COSTELLO to Corporate Records and Logistics for retrieval of relevant case file material and associated holdings. On 27/03/2018 Detective COSTELLO received one archive box, ref. no. REPO/B/2003/17409, containing relevant case file material and holdings including one manila folder containing murder file, one hard bound folder of original statements, four hard bound folders of running sheets, and an envelope containing miscellaneous crime scene/scientific examination related records and crime scene photographs.

**ASSESSMENT:**

A review of relevant case file records confirmed that Allan ADAIR b [REDACTED] /1952 o [REDACTED] Five Dock was originally interviewed by detectives on 13/10/1976 (just over two weeks after the murder), at his home address. Allan ADAIR told detectives he had last seen the victim, Barry JONES, in the public bar of the Five Dock Hotel about one or two months prior. He had originally met JONES after his father, Robert ADAIR Snr @ Bob ADAIR, had brought him home for dinner. He had met JONES about six times at the Five Dock Bowling Club. He is not recorded as seeing JONES at a more proximate time to JONES' murder i.e. Saturday 25/09/1976 or Sunday 26/09/1976. He is not recorded as mentioning anything about a knife (see RS 125). ADAIR indicated he was at home on the day/evening of 26/09/1976 and provided his mother as alibi for the evening of 26/09/1976. Alan ADAIR also appears to have placed himself at the family home on Saturday 25/09/1976.

Case file records confirm Allan ADAIR's mother, Elizabeth ADAIR, 48 old, of [REDACTED] Five Dock was also interviewed (see RS 124-124/3). She put herself at Five Dock Hotel on the evening of Saturday 25/09/1976 and socialised with Lorna & Jack THORBERRY, Betty COLLINS, Lurline BOOTH, Lurline's boyfriend Harry and Barry JONES. She shared a taxi home from the hotel with JONES and Betty COLLINS. Elizabeth ADAIR placed herself at Five Dock Bowling Club during the day on Sunday 26/09/1976 with her husband, Bob ADAIR and Jim

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COLLINS. She spoke to JONES there. She recalled JONES leaving the premises about 2:00pm due to a curfew imposed on him. She left some hours later and met her eldest son, Robert ADAIR Jnr and his family at her home. She spent the evening of Sunday 26/09/1976 with her son, Allan ADAIR at the home watching television. The content of her interview is consistent with that of Allan ADAIR, Bob ADAIR and Robert ADAIR Jnr.

Case file records confirm Robert ADAIR Jnr @ 'Irish', b. [REDACTED] /1947 of [REDACTED] Leichhardt was also interviewed by detectives on 13/10/1976. The content of his interview is again consistent with other family members, confirming that he spent time with the ADAIR family on Sunday 26/09/1976 at their Five Dock home but had no contact with Barry JONES and did not attend Five Dock Bowling Club, Five Dock Hotel, or Five Dock Soccer Club.

A number of other associates of ADAIR and the victim Barry JONES who were regular patrons of the Five Dock Hotel were identified as being present at the Five Dock Hotel on Saturday 25/09/1976, most of whom were interviewed. They included James Buchanan RILEY (see RS 18, 32, 41), his brother Bill RILEY (RS 32), Frank Hedley ROWLANDS (RS 32), John McLean WYLIE (RS 112), Jim COLLINS @ 'Jimmy the Pom' (RS 18, 33/6, 71).

Case file records confirm Robert ADAIR Snr @ Bob ADAIR, 48 old, (see RS 18, 38) was interviewed and, although intoxicated at the time, a statement was obtained from him on 29/09/1976. On 14/10/1976 ADAIR Snr was interviewed further. During the interviews ADAIR Snr stated he had known Barry JONES for about four months, had been at Five Dock Bowling Club on Sunday 26/09/1976 with his wife Elizabeth ADAIR and Barry JONES until JONES left about 2.00pm due to a curfew. ADAIR Snr left the Five Dock Bowling Club about 3.00pm, returning home. About 7.00pm he left home and went to Five Dock RSL where he was refused entry. He went to Five Dock Soccer Club where he attempted to page Barry JONES, believing JONES would be there. JONES apparently did not respond to the page. ADAIR Snr allegedly did not see JONES there that evening despite them both having been there for several hours. ADAIR Snr walked home alone from Five Dock Soccer Club.

There is no indication in the statement or interviews that ADAIR Snr was at Five Dock Hotel with Barry JONES on Saturday 25/09/1976, although in RS 18 he apparently told police he last saw Barry JONES at Five Dock Hotel on Saturday 25/09/1976. This appears to conflict with his interviews and statement in which he stated he saw JONES at the Five Dock Bowling Club on Sunday 26/09/1976.

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In his interview ADAIR Snr does confirm he had an argument with his wife at the Five Dock Hotel on Saturday 25/09/1976 and again at the Five Dock Bowling Club on Sunday 26/09/1976.

In summary there is no reference or indication by any person to Allan ADAIR being present at Five Dock Hotel, Five Dock Bowling Club or Five Dock Soccer Club or of him being in contact with the victim, Barry JONES at any time over the weekend of Saturday 25/09/1976 and Sunday 26/09/1976. There is no mention of any person sighting or being in possession of a knife. Based upon these accounts and Allan ADAIR's own interview on 13/10/1976 (2.5 weeks after the murder), it appears that if Allan ADAIR did see JONES at the Five Dock Hotel it was one or two months prior (ie. 2 or more weeks before the murder).

Case file records confirm there was significant print media coverage from early in the investigation. Copies of newspapers articles dating from 28/09/1976, one day after the murder, including a description of the murder weapon, a large hunting knife, being recovered at the scene are filed within the records.

There does not appear to be any legitimate reason for Allan ADAIR to have avoided disclosing the information to police or others nor for any family member, including his father, to dissuade him from coming forward with the information for over forty years. Allan ADAIR was not an impressionable child or adolescent at the time but was in fact aged in his mid-twenties. Allan ADAIR contacted New Zealand Police whilst intoxicated. He is suspected to be a chronic alcoholic.

**FURTHER DE-BRIEF OF ALLAN ADAIR:**

Detective Sergeant COSTELLO attempted to telephone Allan ADAIR numerous times (04/04/2018, 11/04/2018, 17/04/2018, 18/04/2018, 02/05/2018, 09/05/2018) for the purpose of de-briefing him further. On each occasion the call was either engaged/not connected or not answered. On 18/04/2018 a text message was forwarded to Allan ADAIR but a response was not received. On 24/04/2018 a request was forwarded via email for Detective Constable Ross DICKSON, Orewa Police Station, NZ Police to arrange for Allan ADAIR to contact Detective COSTELLO. On 16/05/2018 (at request of Detective COSTELLO) Detective DICKSON located and spoke to Allan ADAIR, confirmed his contact details and his willingness to discuss his information further.

On Tuesday 22/05/2018 telephoned and spoke to Allan ADAIR.

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ADAIR was coherent, polite, rational and sounded sober. He came across as believable. ADAIR was happy to repeat his information and it was consistent with the content of the statement he made to Detective DICKSON in New Zealand. When questioned further ADAIR was adamant he left Australia in June 1976 for NZ and repeated the precise date he arrived in New Zealand. That date is clearly incorrect as it pre-dates the murder by 3 months. ADAIR also insisted he was at the Five Dock Hotel with his father, Bob ADAIR, brother, Robert ADAIR, Jim COLLINS, John WYLIE and another male, Paddy, on the Saturday afternoon prior to the murder and the victim was also present at the pub. Case file records indicate this was not the case. Even ADAIR's own version (dated 13/10/1976) indicates ADAIR had not seen the victim for some weeks or months prior to the murder and was not at Five Dock Hotel on the weekend of the murder. When the discrepancies were put to Allan ADAIR his response was initially to maintain that his recollection was accurate and question the accuracy of the case file. Later in the conversation he conceded that his recollection must be 'muddled'.

Allan ADAIR commented he recalled being spoken to detectives at his home in the days after the murder. ADAIR stated he thought the detectives at the time suspected he or his father might have been involved. They alleged his father was the last person to see the victim alive. They also wanted to see Allan ADAIR's 'jandals' (thongs) and he showed them to his wardrobe but his thongs were missing.

Allan ADAIR could provide no more detailed description of the knife he believes he saw and/or the two males who he saw holding the knife at the Five Dock Hotel. ADAIR could provide no more detail or description of the two males he saw with the knife only adding he had never seen either of the two males before that afternoon and has not seen them since. ADAIR confirmed his belief that the people mentioned by him who were present at the Five Dock Hotel and who might have been able to corroborate his version of what he saw are now deceased, except for his brother, Robert ADAIR. Allan ADAIR confirmed he was still in contact with his brother and had spoken to him about this matter previously.

He stated he had never discussed his information with any other person apart from his brother. ADAIR stated he had been prompted to come forward with his information recently, forty two years after the murder, after seeing a true crime/unsolved homicide television program on New Zealand television about an unrelated matter.

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Allan ADAIR was provided with Detective COSTELLO's contact telephone numbers and advised to contact Detective COSTELLO or the Unsolved Homicide Team, NSW Police if he had further information.

Detective DICKSON, New Zealand emailed and advised of the outcome of the de-brief.

<b>Prepared By:</b>	Detective Sergeant Peter COSTELLO
<b>Registered No:</b>	27747
<b>Date:</b>	23 May 2018