

## Mystery death of gay man near Bondi beat

**Detectives are investigating the death of a gay man near a beat at Bondi Beach.**

They say the death may have been murder — though there is no proof of foul play. The man, John Allan Russell, 31, of Ocean Street, Bondi was found dead in a rock pool at the bottom of a

had said there was no reason to believe he had suicided.

"We need to eliminate the possibility of murder," Det Dunbar said. "At the moment we can't do that."

The possibility that gay bashers had thrown him over the cliff to his death remained, as did the possibility of an accident.

Police have appealed to

31 years old, 162 centimetres (5 ft 4 in) tall, of slim build and with brown hair.

At the time of his death he was wearing faded blue jeans with a horizontal tear across each knee, a red sloppy joe with three beer motif patches sewn onto the back, and black gym boots.

"The area in which he was found is a small bay south of the Bondi swimming baths and Notts Avenue," Det Dunbar said.

"There is a footpath which runs around the bay along a headland point known as Mackenzies Point.

"The area where the body was found is below Marks Park and a set of steps which lead up to Fletcher Street, South Bondi."

*People who believe they can help are asked to contact Bondi detectives on 30 7060 or 30 2841. Calls will be treated confidentially.*

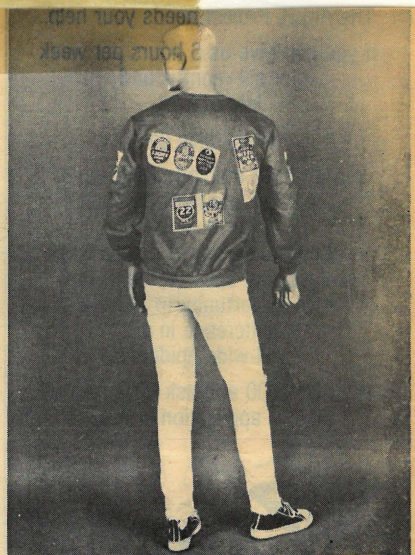
Meanwhile, Melbourne detectives are investigating the murder of a man in a toilet beat in Abert Park.

The middle aged man's body was found fully clothed. He had been stabbed in the chest, the *Melbourne Star Observer* reported.

A knife was found near the scene.

A car "with a number of young people in it" was seen leaving the area shortly before the body was discovered, police said.

Tyre marks near the toilet block are being investigated.



The dead man was wearing clothes identical to these.



John Allan Russell

twelve metre cliff at Bondi Beach at 10am on Thursday 23 November.

He was last seen at 11pm the previous night, when he was drinking with a friend at the Bondi Hotel.

There were no signs of a struggle. Detective Constable Sally Dunbar, of Bondi Police, said,

But friends of the dead man

people who may have seen Russell on the night of his death to contact them.

They also want to hear of anyone who saw anything suspicious at or near the location.

They have issued photographs of the dead man, and of a dummy in clothes identical to those he was wearing.

Russell is described as being

The Gay Community's Newspaper

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