

## Media article - The Wentworth Courier 17/04/2002

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WENTWORTH COURIER WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2002

# Police chase new leads in cliff falls

## TWO SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH 1989 DEATHS

Report **KIM O'CONNOR**

Detectives investigating the deaths of two men near Marks Park, Tamarana, have appealed for public assistance to find a man known as "Derrick" and another with the nickname "Red" who could help with their inquiries.

In December last year police organised a re-enactment of 31-year-old John Russell's 11-metre fall from the Bondi to Tamarana coastal cliff walk below Marks Park on November 24, 1989.

He had spent the night before at a Bondi hotel, pleased that his future was financially secure after he had received news of a large inheritance.

Four months earlier, Ross Warren, a 25-year-old news presenter from Wollongong, disappeared without trace.

He was last seen by friends on July 22, 1989.

His car was found near Marks Park and his keys were found on a rock shelf below the park.

John Russell's body was found at the base of the cliff.

Operation Taradale was set up by police to study these two incidents and other serious assaults in the area during the late 1980s. Investigators have information that the men may have been the victims of gay hate crimes.

They are hoping to locate two men who could shed more light on the cases.

The first man, "Red", frequented the Marks Park area in 1989. He was aged about 35, of slim build and Caucasian appearance.

It is possible he was originally from country NSW.

"Derrick" is believed to have lived in the Bondi Junction area in 1989. Both men are thought to have links to the gay community.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



Police re-enact the cliff fall of John Russell at Marks Park, Tamarana.

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