

# Ex-AC/DC manager and musician killed

By MARK RILEY  
Chief Police Reporter

Crispin Dye's solo musical career was beginning to take off.

After 15 years of travelling the world managing bands such as AC/DC and Rose Tattoo, the 41-year-old songwriter had finally decided to strike out on his own using the stage name Cris Kemp.

He was celebrating the success of his first CD, *A Heart Like Mine*, with friends in Sydney on the night of December 22 when his fledgling career was cut short.

About 4.30 the following morning, Mr Dye, 41, was brutally bashed and robbed by three youths in Little Oxford Street, near Taylor Square. He suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital two days later - Christmas Day.

A witness told police he saw three teenagers standing over Mr Dye and rifling through his wallet as he lay bleeding in the dark laneway.

The wallet is still missing and is the main clue for detectives in their search for Mr Dye's murderers.

The musician's mother, Mrs Jean Dye, said last night that her family was having difficulty coming to terms with the death.

"Cris was such a quiet and very talented man," she said. "He was just the opposite of a violent person ... he was so laid back.

"Music was his life. He always said he couldn't live without music."

Mrs Dye said she would cherish the memories of her son's musical successes, including the seven years in which he helped AC/DC become one of the world's biggest rock bands.

A gold record he got for his work



Murder victim Crispin Dye, left, with AC/DC guitarist Malcolm Young during Mr Dye's days of managing the band.

on the band's 1985 album, *Fly On The Wall*, still hangs in the lounge room of his winter home in Cairns.

He had also worked with the former Easybeats and famed Australian songwriters Harry Vanda and George Young, and with such artists as Jon English, Doug Ashdown and Margret Roadknight.

Although mostly connected with heavy rock bands as a manager for the Albert record company, Mr Dye's real musical passion was in love songs. An accomplished pianist and guitarist, he had written a number of songs for artists such as Simon Gallagher before recording his own work on *A Heart Like Mine*.

The album had begun to figure on the easy listening charts in recent weeks after receiving widespread radio airplay.

Mrs Dye said last night that she had last spoken to her son when he rang home about 6.30 the night before the bashing to tell her he was going to spend the night on the town with friends. Mr Dye had

spent six months of the year in his Cairns home and the rest of the year with his mother in Willoughby.

Detective Senior Constable Deanne Stanley, of Surry Hills police, said yesterday that police were eager to speak with anyone who might have seen Mr Dye in the Paddington or Darlinghurst areas late on December 22 or early the next morning.

"He separated from his friends at Gilligan's nightclub on Taylor Square about 1 am and was not seen again until he was found unconscious in the lane," she said.

The three suspects in the killing are all of Pacific Islander appearance, aged about 17 or 18, about 180 centimetres tall and of slim to medium build. Two had shoulder-length hair and wore T-shirts and baggy trousers. The other wore a baseball cap, T-shirt and grey knee-length shorts.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Surry Hills detectives on 265 4094 or CrimeStoppers on (008) 025 122.