





3

POLICEREPORTS



4

1974



When recollections
and reports
collide
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Histories and Futures
multiply
...



... we are composed of a frail string of learned sequences ... and these pieces which make up the puzzle of the self are held together by the glue of memory. Certain solvents can dissolve this glue: a stroke, catastrophic events. Then we are forced to become scavengers of our own past, searching, finding, relearning, reassembling the self.

(Janette Turner Hospital,
Due Preparations for the Plague,
2003/2004, p. 52)



If undeliverable within 7 days please return to:
State Coroner's Office, 302 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

**PRIVATE &
CONFIDENTIAL**
Mr Andrew Miller
47 Gulf Parade
MASLIN BEACH SA 5170



STATE
CORONER'S
COURT

State Coroner's Court
302 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: (08) 8204 0600
Facsimile: (08) 8204 0633
E-mail: coroner@courts.sa.gov.au

YOUR REF
OUR REF 0938/1974

30 April 2009

Mr Andrew Miller
47 Gulf Parade
MASLIN BEACH SA 5170

Dear Mr Miller

RE: Death of Brita Marie Wilma MILLER

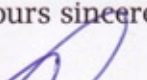
I refer to your recent letter pertaining to the death of the abovenamed deceased.

As requested, copies of the medical documents and statements are enclosed.

Please be advised that an invoice for the amount of \$77.77 will be forwarded to you from the Financial Services Branch of the Courts Administration Authority (CAA) in due course. Please refer to this invoice for payment options and phone the Financial Services Branch on (08) 8226 0110 if you have any queries regarding the invoice.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any queries on (08) 8204 0600.

Yours sincerely



2. Robert Lionel MILLER, Legally Qualified Medical Practitioner of Waikerie who examined the body at Waikerie Hospital and pronounced life to be extinct.

Officer in Charge,
G.4. Division.

SUBJECT.

MILLER Brita Marie Wilma (Deceased)

REFERENCE.

Attached Coroner's Report.

1. Attached is complete Coroners report relating to the death of Mrs Brita Marie Wilma MILLER late of 13 Centre Way BELAIR.

2. The Local Coroner has deemed an inquest un necessary and has given his reasons accordingly.

3. Certificates have been forwarded to The Honourable the Attorney General and the Principal Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages.

BLANCHETOWN.
1/7/74.

M. Renney
M.G. RENNEY. S/Const. No.1282/7
Officer in Charge.

SECRETARY,
ATTORNEY GENERALS DEPARTMENT

Coroners Report forwarded.

G.4.DIVISION
8/7/74

R.D. Wescombe
R.D. WESCOMBE
Inspector

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2. Robert Lionel MILLER, Legally Qualified Medical Practitioner of Waikerie who examined the body at Waikerie Hospital and pronounced life to be extinct.

Police Station,
BLANCHETOWN. S.A. 5357
19/6/74.

D.W. PAGE. Esq. J.P.
CORONER.
BLANCHETOWN.

Sir,

At about 9.55am on Saturday 27th April 1974, information was received of a female person having been drowned in a lagoon near the River Murray near BLANCHETOWN. I attended at the scene and carried out enquiries and found that a female person Mrs Brita Marie Wilma MILLER 34 years late of 13 Centre Way BELAIR had drowned.

Enquiries have been conducted into the death and the following statements have been obtained for the compilation of this report.

1. William James MILLER of 13 Centre Way BELAIR, last person to see deceased alive and person who found deceased. Also person identifying deceased.
2. Robert Lionel MILLER, Legally Qualified Medical Practitioner of Waikerie who examined the body at Waikerie Hospital and pronounced life to be extinct.
3. Bruce William FENWICK, of 55 Third Avenue FORRESTVILLE, a person assisting with the removal of the body from the lagoon.
4. Kenneth Bothwell HYDE, of 29 Woodleigh Road BLACKWOOD a person assisting with the removal of the body from the lagoon.
5. R.A. JAMES, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P.A. of Adelaide who conducted Post Mortem on the body on 27/4/74.
6. Maxwell George RENNEY Police Officer of BLANCHETOWN who conducted enquiries into the death.

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5. R.A. JAMES, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P.A. of Adelaide who conducted Post Mortem on the body on 27/4/74.
6. Maxwell George RENNEY Police Officer of BLANCHETOWN who conducted enquiries into the death.

After perusing this report would you please advise me if you deem an inquest necessary and if so the date, time and place which would be convenient to hold such inquest.

Yours Faithfully
M.G. RENNEY S/Const. No.1282/7

.....
.....

RETURNED TO SENIOR CONSTABLE M.G. RENNEY BLANCHETOWN

After having perused the attached report of S/Const. M.G. RENNEY in connection with the death of Brite Marie Wilma MILLER of 13 Centre Way BELAIR I deem an inquest unnecessary. My reasons for coming to this conclusion are as follows:-

- (a) There are no suspicious circumstances attached to the manner of cause of death. I find that the deceased died from drowning.
- (b) No information has been received from the Police or other interested party which would lead me to the conclusion that an inquest should be held.

BLANCHETOWN.
19/6/74

.....
..... J.P.
CORONER.



DAD



This annoyed me at the time. I then proceeded to awaken my wife and I had trouble in doing so. I had to actually slap her a few times on the face before she woke.

I am not sure if she had been drinking liquor or not, but I

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONERS ACT 1935 - 1969

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF BRITA MARIE WILMA MILLER
WHO DIED AT NEAR BLANCHETOWN ON 26/4/74.

I, William James MILLER, 38 years Builder of 13 Centre Way BELAIR, make oath and say as follows,

At about mid day on Thursday 25th April 1974, I arrived at "ROONKA STATION" Via Blanchetown with my wife Brita Marie Wilma MILLER and two small children.

Recently I purchased a (20) twenty acre block of land in this area and we came up here to camp for the long weekend.

We selected a spot about half a mile from a lagoon near the River Murray and erected our tent and set up a camp.

At about 9.30 am on Friday 26th April 1974, I left the camp with the elder of the children and went for a trip to MORGAN.

The smaller child was left at the camp with my wife. I arrived back at the camp at about 1pm on the same day.

When I arrived back to the camp I found my wife was lying down and was in a very heavy sleep. The small child was running round the tent on his own and not being very well cared for.

I then proceeded to awaken my

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This annoyed me at the time. I then proceeded to awaken my wife and I had trouble in doing so. I had to actually slap her a few times on the face before she woke.

I am not sure if she had been drinking liquor or not, but I did find a bottle of gin about a quarter full and a bottle of brandy about half full. I am not sure if she had been drinking them prior to my arrival home that day or if she had been drinking them at some other stage.

As far as I know she did not drink very much, she would never drink any great quantity any time we went together to a party.

After a few minutes I woke her up. At this stage she was

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM JAMES MILLER. PAGE(2)

dressed in a bikini.

When she woke up we had a fairly heated argument. I was annoyed at her for neglecting our smaller child. As a result of the argument she picked up one of our suite cases and packed in it some clothes. A short time later she walked out of the tent carrying the suite case and walked off in an

easterly direction to-wards the cliff. She only walked for about(20) twenty of (30) thirty yards and put down the case. I asked her where she was going and I don't remember for sure if she answered me or not. I then watched her walk off without the case. Prior to leaving she changed her clothes and put on a green mini skirt, a blouse and a sleeveless vest. I watched her walk for about a quarter of a mile straight in the direction of the cliff and then she disappeared. I am not sure if she sat down or walked down the edge of the cliff. By this time it was about 1.45 pm. I did not see my wife alive after that time.

I did not worry about my wife walking off like this because she has went off from home before and has came back.

I was not sure how busy the Blanchetown - Morgan Road is I thought she might try and catch a bus and go home, all because of the argument we had.

It was only a verbal argument there was no violence used.

I was not particularly worried about her at this stage because I thought she would sulk for a while and then come back. I had our two children with me, I put them in the car and we went for a drive into Blanchetown.

We were camped about (6) six miles from BLANCHETOWN. We returned to the camp at about 3.30 pm and my wife wasn't there

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children woke up. I attended to them and the elder one wanted to go fishing. I then took the children and we went fishing for about an hour. I then returned to the camp to collect some

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM JAMES MILLER. PAGE (3)

so we went for another drive and returned to the camp about 4.30 pm. She still wasn't there. I then left the children at the camp and decided to walk over to the cliff edge where I saw her last and was unable to find her. I then returned to the camp and attended to the children. When I couldn't find her I was then fairly sure she must have obtained a ride home to BELAIR.

At about 8pm I had put the children to bed, and I decided to go for another walk along the cliff edge and I called out to her a few times but I was unable to find her.

I returned to the camp and made up a big fire in case she had become lost and she would see it to return.

I sat outside of the tent for two or three hours by the fire waiting for her but she did not return.

I am afraid our marriage has never what it could have been but we have been getting along. My wife has always been a fairly nervy person especially since she had the two children.

I went to bed at about 11 o'clock.

At about 6am this morning Saturday 27th April 1974 the

children woke up. I attended to them and the elder one wanted to go fishing. I then took the children and we went fishing for about an hour. I then returned to the camp to collect some money. I was going to go to Blanchetown and phone my home number to find in fact if she had gone home.

Before doing this I decided to take a walk along the bottom of the cliff between this and the lagoon. After walking for about half a mile in a northerly direction ~~and~~ I found my wife in the water. I was sure that she was dead as there was no movement. This position appeared to have been in a direct line with our camp.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM JAMES MILLER PAGE (4)

I left the scene as I was unable to get her from the water and I immediately reported to the Police.

When I last saw my wife alive at about 1.45pm on Friday 26th April 1974 she was in a very upset state of mind. I thought she had been drinking liquor when I arrived back at the camp and she did not deny this.

She did not appear to be effected by alcohol but she was very upset.

She has been being treated by Doctor HODGSON of Sturt Clinic

by Doctor ROBSON of Sturt Clinic
, I think for nerves. I am not sure when she last saw a
Doctor and I wouldn't even know she never ~~talked~~ would tell me
when she was going.

I am her second husband, she was married previously in
Germany where she was born. We have been married five years.
Apparently her first marriage was not successfull, this being
apparently due to a suicide attempt when she slashed her
wrists. I only know of this by what she has told me.

At about 2pm on Saturday 27th April 1974 I saw the body of my
wife when I positively identified her to Senior Constable
M.G. RENNEY of Blanchetown Police as that of being my late
wife Brita Marie Wilma MILLER late of 13 Centre Way BELAIR.

I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except
where it otherwise appears.

Sworn at.....

This..... day of.....1974.

Before me.....

A member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.



WITNESSES



IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONERS ACT 1935 = 1969.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF BRITA MARIE WILMA MILLER
WHO DIED AT NEAR BLANCHETOWN ON 26/4/74.

I, Robert Lionel MILLER, Fully Quallified Medical Practioner
of WIKERIE make oath and say as follows:-

At about 3pm on Saturday 27th April 1974, I attended at the
Waikerie Mortuary where I examined the body of a female person
found to be that of Brita Marie Wilma MILLER, late of 13
Centre Way BELAIR. I noticed the body was dressed in a green
mini skirt a light bñows and a sleeveless vest. The body was
not wearing any underclothes.

The body had superficial wounds to the face arms and legs
which appeared to be grazed.

I there pronounced life to be extinct.

I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except
where it otherwise appears.

Sworn at.....

This.....day of.....1974.

Before me.....

A member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONERS ACT 1935 - 1969

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF BRITA Marie Wilma MILLER
WHO DIED AT NEAR BLANCHETOWN ON 26/4/74

I, BRUCE WILLIAM FENWICK, 50 years, Manager and Director of
55 Third Avenue FORRESTVILLE, make oath and say as follows:-

At about 11am on Saturday 27th April 1974 in company with
Ken HYDE and Senior Constable M.G. RENNEY of BLANCHETOWN P^Ulice
I assisted with the removal of a female body from a lagoon
near the River Murray at BLANCHETOWN. After about three hours
we manouvered a motor boat into the lagoon and removed the
body into the boat and then to a St. John Ambulance waiting at
"Roonka Station" Homestead. The body was placed in the
Ambulance at about 1.30pm.

I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except
where it otherwise appears.

Sworn at.....

This.....day of.....1974.

Before me.....

A Member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONERS ACT 1935 - 1969.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF BRITA MARIE WILMA MILLER
WHO DIED AT NEAR BLANCHETOWN ON 26/4/74.

I, Kenneth Bothwell HYDE, 42 years, manager of 29 Woodleigh Road BLACKWOOD, make oath and say as follows:-

At about 11am on Saturday 27th April 1974, in company with Bruce FENWICK and Senior Constable M.G. RENNEY of Blanchetown Police I assisted with the removal of a female body from a lagoon near the River Murray at BLANCHETOWN. After about three hours a manouvered a boat into the lagoon and removed the body into the boat and then to a St.John Ambulance waiting at "Roonka Station" Homestead. The body was placed in the Ambulance at about 1.30pm.

I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except where it otherwise appears.

Sworn at.....

This.....day of.....1974.

Before me.....

A Member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.



CORONER



External examination:

The body is that of a naked adult white female 5'5" tall with brown hair tied in a pigtail with green beads. The eyes are hazel. Rigor mortis is fully established but lividity is not well demarcated. There is a deep gaping ragged laceration 5½" in length extending from above the left eye obliquely backwards over the scalp to a point above the left



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE, FROME ROAD, ADELAIDE

HISTOPATHOLOGY DIVISION

RAJ:SMS

Postal Address: Box 14, Rundle Street P.O., Adelaide, S.A. 5000
Telephone 2 23 0230 Ext. 8407 Telex: 82647

Patient Name	Sex	Age	Unit Record	Ward	Receipt Date	Laboratory Number
MILLER, Brita Marie Wilma	F	34			27/4/74	50336 1063/74

Nature of Specimen

Post mortem, 631/A2. RAJ.

The City Coroner,
23 Waymouth Street,
ADELAIDE, 5000.

DATE OF DEATH:

26/4/74 (probable)

DATE OF AUTOPSY:

27/4/74

STATEMENT.

At the West Terrace Mortuary at 2130 hours 27/4/74 I performed an autopsy on the body of an adult white female identified to me by 1st Class Constable COSTELLO of the Waikerie Police as being that of the above-named.

ANATOMICAL DIAGNOSIS.

Fresh water drowning.
External injuries consistent with fall from a cliff.

External examination:

The body is that of a naked adult white female 5'5" tall with brown hair tied in a pigtail with green beads. The eyes are hazel. Rigor mortis is fully established but lividity is not well demarcated. There is a deep gaping ragged laceration 5½" in length extending from above the left eye obliquely backwards over the scalp to a point above the left ear. Bilateral periorbital bruising is noted. Two linear lacerations extend vertically from the left upper lip for about 1 cm. Sliding abrasions are noted on the left cheek and right ear. There is bruising behind the left ear. Extensive sliding abrasions directionally upwards are noted behind the calves of both legs and the left buttock consistent with a fall feet first. Contusions are noted over the back of the right elbow, right foot laterally and the front of both legs. Abrasions are noted on the lateral aspect of the left arm, the dorsal aspect of the right hand, the lumbar region of the back, and extensive abrasions are also present over the left hip with a central laceration running

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Blush

BOM-2.73 D4677 0

Alimentary System:



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE, FROME ROAD, ADELAIDE
HISTOPATHOLOGY DIVISION

Postal Address : Box 14, Rundle Street P.O., Adelaide, S.A. 5000
Telephone: 23 0230 Ext. Telex: 82647

Patient Name	Sex	Age	Unit Record	Ward	Receipt	Date	Laboratory Number
MILLER, Brita Marie Wilma	F	34				27/4/74	50336 1063/74

Nature of Specimen

2.

vertically for 6 cm. An old appendicectomy scar is noted in the right loin, and an old scar in the front of the left wrist is suggestive of a previous unsuccessful suicide attempt.

Number

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Number

36

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Internal examination:Cardiovascular System:Pericardium - normal.Heart. The myocardium appears healthy but there is marked haemolytic staining particularly of the left ventricle in keeping with the effects of fresh water drowning.Valves, coronary arteries. - Patent throughout.Aorta. Shows haemolytic staining of the intima in keeping with fresh water drowning.Respiratory System:Hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages show a fracture of the right superior cornu of the thyroid cartilage without adjacent haemorrhage. The hyoid bone and cricoid cartilage are intact.Trachea and main bronchi contain watery froth which is not bloodstained.Lungs. Both lungs are voluminous and pink. Watery fluid wells freely from the cut surface of all lobes in keeping with drowning.Pleural cavities. A slightly haemorrhagic effusion of 100 ml is noted on the right side.Alimentary System:Tongue. Normal.Lips. There is a small laceration on the upper lip in the midline internally.Oesophagus. Normal.Peritoneal cavity contains about 100 ml of scattered blood (lacerated spleen).Stomach contains about 300 ml of watery fluid only.Duodenum - normal.Intestines contain gas.Appendix - absent.Rectum - normal.Liver intact. Normal externally and on cut surface.Gall bladder, bile ducts, pancreas - normal. *Normal* /zMeninges. Normal.Basal vessels. Normal.Brain. No evidence of trauma externally or on cut surface.Skeletal System:

No fractures demonstrated.

Skeletal System:
No fractures demonstrated.

SPECIMENS.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Postal Address: Box 14, Rundle Street P.O., Adelaide, S.A. 5000
Telephone: 23 0230 Ext. Telex: 82647

Patient Name	Sex	Age	Unit Record	Ward	Receipt	Date	Laboratory Number
MILLER, Brita Marie Wilma	F	34			27/4/74		50336 1063/74

Nature of Specimen

3.

Renal System:

Kidneys show marked foetal lobation of the right kidney, but there are no abnormalities on cut surface.

Ureters normal.

Bladder contains 100 ml of clear urine.

Uterus. Non-gravid.

Ovaries. Normal.

Endocrine System:

Thyroid, adrenals, pituitary. Normal.

Haemopoietic System:

Spleen shows a 4 cm linear tear on the anterior hilar aspect.

Lymph nodes - normal.

Central Nervous System:

Scalp. Ragged laceration as above.

Skull. No fracture demonstrated.

Meninges. Normal.

Basal vessels. Normal.

Brain. No evidence of trauma externally or on cut surface.

Skeletal System:

No fractures demonstrated.

Skeletal System:

No fractures demonstrated.

SPECIMENS.

1. Photographs taken.
2. Diatoms. Preparations of a local sample of water from the scene of body recovery show numerous discoid and navicular forms with frequent filamentous structures in keeping with wheat roots. Diatom preparations from the body organs show numerous discoid forms and occasional navicular diatoms in the preparation from kidney. This tends to confirm drowning.
3. Histology. Sections from lung show alveolar distension without foreign material. Sections from external injuries show foreign material and bacteria without a cellular response.

James

../4

SKIN laceration.

R. A. JAMES. M.B. B.S. F.R.C.P.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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HISTOPATHOLOGY DIVISION

Postal Address : Box 14, Rundle Street P.O., Adelaide, S.A. 5000
Telephone: 23 0230 Ext. Telex: 82647

Patient Name	Sex	Age	Unit Record	Ward	Receipt	Date	Laboratory Number
MILLER, Brita Marie Wilma	F	34				27/4/74	50336 1063/74

Nature of Specimen

4.

Liver shows marked fatty change most suggestive of chronic alcoholic liver disease.
Endometrium shows proliferative non-secretory appearance.
Kidney - autolytic.

4. Blood taken for blood alcohol estimation (Government Analyst). 0.17% alcohol.

5. Urine. Alcohol 0.33% (Government Analyst).
6. Liver, kidney, stomach and contents referred to Government Analyst for toxicology. No common drugs or poisons found.

COMMENTS.

All the features at autopsy are consistent with a fall feet first over a cliff with the sliding abrasions suggesting a slide down the cliff face. The scalp injury described above suggests that she landed head first at the cliff base where apparently a pool of blood was found. Cause of death is confirmed as due to fresh water drowning. The old scar on the left wrist suggests a previous suicide attempt.

There are no suspicious circumstances at autopsy.

T28:M1602 Lungs, drowning.
T01:M1440 Skin laceration.

R. James
R. A. JAMES, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P.A.
Forensic Pathology Divn. I.M.V.S.

3/6/74.



POLICE



I was then shown to a lagoon
in length and half a mile wide. On the west side of this lagoon
there is a sheer cliff face approximately (100) one hundred feet
in height. On all other sides of the lagoon it is surrounded by

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONERS ACT, 1935 - 1969

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF BRITA MARIE WILMA MILLER
WHO DIED AT NEAR BLANCHETOWN ON 26/4/74.

I, Maxwell George RENNEY, Senior Constable, stationed at
BLANCHETOWN Police Station make oath and say as follows:-

At about 9.55am on Saturday 27th April 1974, I was off duty
at Blanchetown Police Station when a person now known to me as
William James MILLER 38 years Builder of 13 Centre Way BELAIR
called to the station reporting that his wife had drowned in a
lagoon about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile west from the River Murray near
BLANCHETOWN. Mr MILLER stated that his wife's name was Brite
Marie Wilma MILLER, 34 years home duties, of 13 Center Way
BELAIR.

After having a short conversarion with MILLER I requested him to
proceed to the loaction where his wife's body was and to show
me this location. I then proceeded to a location approximately
(6) six miles north from Blanchetown onto a station known as
"ROONKA STATION". This property is owned and worked by Hugh
SOBEY of 'Roonka Station' Via BLANCHETOWN.

I was then shown to a large lagoon approximately one (1) mile
on the west side of this lagoon

I was then shown to a lagoon in length and half a mile wide. On the west side of this lagoon there is a sheer cliff face approximately (100) one hundred feet in height. On all other sides of the lagoon it is surrounded by flat swamp and marsh country. This flat area divides the lagoon from the River Murray. MILLER then pointed out to me a narrow rough track which runs north and south between the lagoon and the sheer cliff face. This track was the only access per foot to where the body could be located. After walking approximately half a mile in a northerly direction along this track the body of the person mentioned was located. I there saw the body of a female person dressed in a short green skirt, light colour blouse and a sleeveless vest.

down which indicated that the body could have rolled through same

INVESTIGATING OFFICER STATEMENT PAGE(2).

I noted that the body was floating face upwards in fairly shallow water with the head in a southerly direction. The body was half submerged in the water. The body was about (8) eight feet from the edge of the water. This person appeared to be dead there was no movement what so ever.

At this stage I was unable to move the body from the water and I was unable to take a very close view of it. While at the scene I made a routine enquiry and inspection of the scene.

I there found two ladies shoes, a left and a right. One was

located (10) ten paces west from the water edge and one was located (4) four paces from the water edge. The two shoes were (6) six paces apart. These shoes were located on dry land (20) twenty paces in width which separates the sheer cliff face from the edge of the water. On further inspection I located a patch of blood on the ground. This patch of blood was located (5) five paces west from the edge of the water, and appeared on the ground consistent with that of a body that had fallen from a great height. The patch of blood measured (3) three feet in length and (6) six inches in width. There were no other visible marks on the ground. On the very edge of the water and in the water were some reeds about two feet in height. A patch of these were flattened down which indicated that the body could have rolled through same prior to entering the water. The body was in a direct line with this area and then to the patch of blood on the ground.

From observations and enquiries made of the area at this stage it appeared that the deceased had come from the cliff, had hit the ground, and then rolled into the water. It was not possible at this stage to ascertain if the person was alive before entering the water after the fall from the cliff. I then left the scene to obtain assistance and permission to remove the body from the area.

At about 3.30 pm on the same day after obtaining a statement from William James MILEER regarding events which lead up to the

INVESTIGATING OFFICER STATEMENT PAGE (3)

I obtained the use of a motor boat and with Kenneth Bothwell HYDE of 29 Woodleigh Road BLACKWOOD and Bruce William FENWICK of 55 Third Avenue FORRESTVILLE we proceeded to the area. Much difficulty was experienced manouvering the boat to the area and at about 1pm with the assistance of the two persons mentioned the body was placed in the boat and taken to a point near 'Roonka' Homestead where the body was placed into a waiting Ambualnce and taken to the Waikerie Mortuary.

A closer inspection of the body at this stage revealed there was a large deep gash on the left side of the face. I also noticed other graze marks which were all consistant with that of a persc falling down a rock cliff face.

The body at this stage was positively identified to me by William James MILLER as being that of Mrs Brita Marie Wilma MILL 34 years late of 13 Centre Way BELAIR.

At about 1.35pm St.John Ambualnce conveyed the body to Waikerie Mortuary where it was examined by Doctor Robert Lionel MILLER fully qualified medical practioner of Waikerie. Doctor MILLER pronounced life to be extinct.

At about 3.30 pm on the same day after obtaining a statement from William James MILEER regarding events which lead up to the

death of Mrs MILLER I carried out further enquiries and observations. I proceeded to the camp which Mr and Mrs MILLER had erected above the cliff. The camp was situated at a point about half a mile west from the cliff edge within a small area of timber. This point was in a direct line west from the point where the body was located in the lagoon at the bottom of the cliff. A thorough investigation was made of the camp area and nothing was found to indicate that anything violent had occurred in the vicinity prior to the deceased leaving the camp.

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER PAGE (4)

All that was found was a fairly new tent measuring 12' x 12' and an amount of bedding, clothing, food and camping gear none of which had been disturbed other than from normal use. From this point I then proceeded in an easterly direction to the cliff edge, where it was apparent the deceased had fallen over. A search was made over an area between the camp and the edge of the cliff and no foot marks or any other marks were located. I then made a thorough search at the top of the cliff in a direct line between the camp and the point at the bottom of the cliff where the body was located, and also for a good distance on either side of this point and no marks were found.

It was noted that at a point directly in line with the camp the cliff goes down with a gradual slope for about (25) twenty five to (30) thirty feet before falling away to a sheer drop to the bottom.

It would be possible for a person to climb down to this area before perhaps falling over the edge. It was impossible to view any further down the cliff edge for any further marks but from where it was possible to view for marks nothing could be sighted. From observations made of the area at the top of the cliff there were no signs of violence or anything to suggest violence at this point.

At this stage of enquiries carried out I was satisfied there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the cause or origin of the death of Brita Marie Wilma MILLER.

At about 9.30 am on Sunday 28th April 1974, two members of the Adelaide Homocide Squad and one member of the Forensic Science Squad arrived at the station to carry out further routine enquiry into the death of Brita Marie Wilma MILLER. With these members I proceeded to the scene and pointed out to them the location

A member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION OFFICER Page (5)

where the body was found. Extensive enquiries were carried out by the mentioned members at all points mentioned previously in this report and no suspicious circumstances were found surrounding the cause or origin of the death of Mrs Erita Marie Wilma MILLER.

I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except where it otherwise appears.

Sworn at.....

This..... day of..... 1974.

Before me.....

A member of the Police Force.

.....
Signature of Deponent.



NEWSPAPER



Champion of the black swan

PERTH—An Adelaide post-graduate student, Mr. Alan Tingay, is fighting for WA's famous black swans.

Mr. Tingay believes they are running out of living space in the South-West.

He fears that at the present rate of "progress" most of the birds' ecosystems will be contaminated or destroyed within 20 years.

Mr. Tingay, who is doing a doctoral thesis on the black swan, said salinity was destroying many of the black swan's fresh-water habitats.

"Over-zealous farmers are completing the job by burning off the reeds which are the birds' main nesting material," he said.

Mr. Tingay keeps 10 swans at the CSIRO wild life research station at Helena Valley, near Perth, and shuttles between his caged specimens and the big flocks around the Woinerup estuary, near Busseton.

He says two factors pointed to a pressure build-up on the swans. The first is the big number of eggs left unhatched in nests after the main broods of cygnets have hatched.

He thinks this may be the parent birds' reaction to a living area becoming too small.

The second relates to the late hatches in a poor season, which resulted in the deaths of scores of cygnets near Busseton in January.



Mr. Tingay with a tagged black swan he is using in his research.

Fog and eagle cause turmoil at airport

Fog and an eagle threw Adelaide Airport into turmoil yesterday.

Tough new line on mine firms

Contd. from P. 1.

Mr. Whillam said in a television interview last night that in the May 15 election his Government placed great emphasis on environment issues and Australian control of her resources.

He said \$8 p.c. of Australian energy resources were controlled from overseas.

"Now we can't have that position continuing," he said.

Mr. Whillam also will outline in his policy speech a plan to restructure house mortgage payments in which the home owner reaches a high income bracket.

This will take the pressure off young home buyers in the initial years of their costly loans.

Drowned

A woman, 34, drowned after falling down a 100-foot cliff near Blanchetown on Friday. She was Berta Miller, married, of Centre way, Belair. Her husband found her body on Saturday morning in two feet of water at the bottom of the cliff.

Police said the woman had been on a camping trip with her husband and two children.

Ban hits broadcasts

On Staff Representative SYDNEY — Broadcasting from the ABC was seriously disrupted yesterday.

ABC technical operators are banning one time as part of a campaign of striking on a work value case.

The ABC said the effects of the van of a programme were unpredictable.

Difficulties could occur in the production of some programmes when the production time was longer than expected and involved the operators in overtime work.

Other programmes would automatically involve overtime work and could not be started.

Provincial radio and TV stations would be in difficulties when they could not get their normal programmes from the national stations.

The chairman of the ABC

(Professor R. I. Downing), the general manager (Mr. T. B. Duckman) and the Federal executive of the ABC Staff Association met yesterday.

A further meeting will be held between Mr. Duckman, representatives of the technical operators and the Federal executive at 10.30 am today.

This afternoon the parties will appear before the Deputy Technical Service Arbitrator (Mr. L. Booth).

Shelter 'an urgent need'

The Federal and State governments will be asked for grants to set up a women's shelter in Adelaide.

The Women's Electoral Lobby and Women's Liberation have formed a committee to prepare a submission for the grant.

The convener of the women's Emergency Shelter Committee

Ghan may reach Adelaide today

The Ghan is expected to continue its journey to Adelaide this morning after being held up for more than three days 70 miles north of Oodnadatta.

The train with 45 passengers on board, left Alice Springs on Wednesday and has been stuck at Pedirka, about two miles north of the flooded Hamilton River crossing, since Thursday night.

The Commonwealth Railways at Port Augusta said yesterday that provided the river level continued to drop, the train would continue south early today.

It would reach Adelaide late tonight.

The north-bound Ghan would leave Adelaide at 7.35 am today.

Many roads in northern SA were still closed to traffic yesterday.

Steel talks

PERTH — The Premier (Sir Charles Court) will discuss today the possible establishment of a \$150m steel works in WA with representatives of companies involved in the proposal, including BHP and several overseas steel corporations.

The group will make several WA site inspections before moving to the eastern States to consider whether to proceed with a detailed feasibility study of the project costing about \$1m.

X-Lotto

The prize in X-Lotto No. 59 was \$158,231 including a jackpot of \$2,318.68 from X-Lotto No. 58.

The division 1 prize was \$35,892.25, which included \$2,318.68 from X-Lotto No. 51.

The division 2 prize was \$2,850.00 and division 3 prize was \$1,425.00.

Archbishop says schools report 'unfair' to SA

Two members of the Australian Schools Commission will visit Adelaide next month for talks with the SA director of Catholic Education (Mr. J. McDonald).

The visit was announced last night by the Federal Minister for Education (Mr. Beazley) following criticism of some aspects of the commission's report by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide (Most Rev. Dr. J. W. Gleeson).

Opening the \$122,000 St. Joseph's Parish School at Hectorville yesterday, Dr. Gleeson said that, although the adoption of the report had given "new thrust and enthusiasm to educational endeavor," it did have its shortcomings.

He expressed concern with the formula on which the distribution of capital grants to non-Government schools had been based in SA.

Despite many attempts to have the position rectified no amendment had been made, he said.

"This means that due expansion has not been possible and a serious feeling of being treated unfairly exists among us," Dr. Gleeson said.

He said all schools in SA had been seriously handicapped by the effect of inflation and the commission appeared to be adhering too rigidly to the letter of the Karmel Report rather than taking the message from it.

Mr. Beazley, who attended the

opening, said he was "a little confused" by Dr. Gleeson's statements.

He said he would arrange for two members of the commission, probably Dr. G. Hancock and Professor P. Tannock, to visit Adelaide within the next couple of weeks for talks with the director of Catholic Education.

"From these talks we will be able to find out just what the situation is and if a solution can be found," Mr. Beazley said.

He said Dr. Gleeson's criticism of the distribution of capital grants to non-Government schools had been hard to understand.

The distribution of grants was a question of priorities.

He said there were many slum or disadvantaged schools in Sydney and Melbourne requiring grants and he had seen none in Adelaide to compare with them.

On the question of inflation, Mr. Beazley said that in the past 2 years of Liberal Party Government grants to all schools had totalled \$11m.

"We have increased this to \$10m. More than a six-fold increase can, I think, fairly be said to be keeping pace with inflation," he said.

The rigid adherence to the Karmel Report had, in some aspects, favored Catholic schools.

Three killed on SA roads

Three people died on SA country roads at the week-end.

Stephen Reginald Bowen, 21, farmer, of Bagot street, Wallaroo, died on Saturday afternoon when his car struck a tree after leaving the Greens Plain road at Kadina.

John Frederick Hazel, 38, of Bennett street, Brighton, was killed on Saturday when his car overturned on the Blanesbury road about seven miles east of Yorketown.

Trevor George Stephens, 9, of Oliver street, Port Pirie, was killed when the car in which he was travelling left the Neishaby road about six miles east of Port Pirie on Saturday night.

Geoffrey Paul Ory, 17, of Molesworth street, North Adelaide, was killed on Friday when his motor cycle and a car collided on the Port Wakefield road about four miles north of Windor.

Browning street, Tea Tree Gully, Police wanted witnesses of the accident to contact police headquarters on 87 0333.

Edward Balch, 35, of north of Windor.

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Drowned

A woman, 34, drowned after falling down a 100-foot cliff near Blanche Town on Friday. She was Brita Miller, married, of Centre way, Belair.

Her husband found her body on Saturday morning in two feet of water at the bottom of the cliff.

Police said the woman had been on a camping trip with her husband and two children.



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RIP



The dead never stop telling us stories.
Those whom we have betrayed, no matter how pure our intent, how scrupulous our reasons, they tell their tales to us night after night, which is why some of you will lose all capacity to sleep.

(Janette Turner Hospital,
Due Preparations for the Plague,
2003/2004, p. 303)



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