

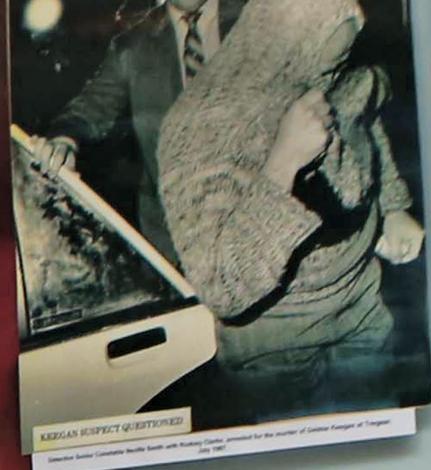


LET'S FOUND IN MURDER HUNT

ILLAWARRA Mercury
'I murdered Arkell, O'Hearn'
Alleged killer decapitated victim and wanted to keep his head as a trophy
Court hears of confession

MURDER CHARGE ON BIKE DEATH
Sacked driver 'a leader'

PLEA
PORT STEPHENS LAND & CARAVAN
The Positives of Negative Gearing
FREE SEMINAR



UP KILLER
99%
5%

The killer who came knocking

DAILY Liberator
\$51m in fat stock

Daily Mirror
Debbie murder arrest
NEIGHBOR CHARGED



Do ge

Homicide Squad
MURDER OF
J. M. HAWKINGTON
At Graves Point
On 28th September 1973
O.I.C. David R. SMITH
Box 4 of 17

Bab
Man shot four girls after being jilted, court told
Angelic



RIGHT Moments after a man was stabbed more than 20 times, Det Insp Hans Rupp APM aims his gun at the offender, who is still holding the murder weapon

BOTTOM Hans Rupp admits he "had no aspirations to become a detective" during his first years as a police officer

Hans Rupp's time's up

One of the NSWPF's longest serving and most respected major crime investigators retired this month.

STORY **RICHARD CANN** *POLICE MONTHLY*

MAIN PHOTO **SASHA WOOLLEY** PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRANCH

Det Insp Rupp's remarkable career with the NSWPF ended on 5 February, 41 years and one day after it began in 1974, having seen him investigate hundreds of homicides including the murders of three police officers.

Homicide Squad Commander, Det Supt Mick Willing said the example that Det Insp Rupp set has helped shape the way major crime investigators go about tackling some of the state's most challenging cases.

"Hans has been a towering figure in homicide and major crime for decades and he will be sorely missed," he said.

"He is known for being a straight down the line character who, rather than rush to the use of electronics to gather evidence, would rather get out on the front foot and talk to people," Det Supt Willing said. "It's an art we're in danger of losing but one that has provided much of our successes over the past few years.

"Fortunately, Hans has been passionate about passing on his knowledge and he's had a big impact on the detectives around him. They'll carry those lessons for the rest of their careers."

Det Insp Rupp, who recently spent a year in the Northern Territory advising its police force

on how best to investigate major crime, agrees that detectives run the risk of relying too much on technology.

"We didn't have mobile phones or computers," he said. "We'd type up records and use carbon paper and index cards. There was no DNA, just very general blood groupings and fingerprints. Even that is far more advanced today.

"Instead, we wore the leather out of our shoes, getting out and talking to people. We should absolutely do more of that, even with the technology available. There's nothing to stop today's detectives from also getting out on the streets to talk to people, and looking them in the eye to see

whether they're lying."

Det Insp Rupp describes his path into criminal investigation as "accidental", admitting he didn't aspire to become a detective when he joined the NSWPF. However, only a few years into his career he moved to plain clothes and, ►





LEFT Det Insp Hans Rupp received the Australian Police Medal in 2006

since 1986, has worked in Homicide Squad and the Armed Hold Up Squad.

Highs and lows

Less than three years into his career in 1977, Det Insp Rupp was one of the first officers on the scene at the Granville train disaster, in which 83 people died and 210 were injured when a crowded commuter train derailed and

collided with the supports of a road bridge.

"It was an absolutely horrendous situation," he recalled. "Not only were so many people killed, but there were people trapped and dying."

It was a challenging experience for a young officer, but one that Det Insp Rupp is philosophical about.

"People get upset when they

see their first dead body, but as a police officer, what do you expect? You're going to be exposed to things like that. Policing is a contact sport – there are going to be hits."

This resilience has proved invaluable for Det Insp Rupp during a career of emotionally charged investigations, including the fatal shooting of Snr Cst Glen McEnally at Hillsdale in April 2002, the death of Snr Cst Jim Affleck, who was run down and killed by a stolen car on the Hume Highway in January 2001 and the stabbing murder of Cst David Carty while off duty in April 1997.

He investigated several critical incidents where police have had to shoot a suspect, situations that he said are very hard on the police involved. However, he added that the most difficult cases he has worked have been those that have involved the murder of children.

Det Supt Willing said Det Insp Rupp shows incredible empathy for victims' families.

"It is a calling, but Hans feels it as much as anyone," he revealed. "Every year, without any fuss, he makes calls to a number of families of victims he has investigated."

One case in particular illustrates both the highs and lows of a career in criminal investigation. In 1993,

three members of the Gilham family were brutally murdered in their home. Sixteen years later, a family member was found guilty of the murders and handed two life sentences, a moment that Det Insp Rupp described as the "biggest high of them all" given the lengthy nature of the investigation. However, the decision was overturned on appeal in 2012.

"You can't take anything too personally," he said. "You won't survive if you're that way. It's important to stay positive. Every now and then you'll get a kick in the guts, but if you can remain positive and stick with it, you'll get there."

Career of opportunities

In retirement, Det Insp Rupp plans to travel and see the world.

"I won the lottery when I started with the police," he insisted. "It's a great career. Not just as a detective, but throughout the police there are endless opportunities.

"My whole life's been the police. It has paid me well and allowed me to raise a wonderful family."

"I've served nine commissioners and outlasted eight of them," he mused, "but Skippy's proved too good for me." ■

Nominate your most innovative criminal investigations

The Detectives' Board is seeking nominations for the 2013/14 Criminal Investigation Awards. All investigations concluded between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 are eligible.

The awards committee is looking for innovative investigations that have a major impact on crime, and will also consider elements such as victim support,

complexity of issues faced, use of resources and thoroughness.

Nominations close 28 February 2015

For more information and nomination forms visit the Detectives' Board intranet

