

I won't rest until  
Lyn's killer is  
behind bars

# COLD CASE

## Can you help?

As the investigations continued, Lyn's parents stepped in to look after Shane.

Tormented, I would scour the streets for anyone matching the description of Lyn's killer. But for nine months there was nothing. Then, a second tragedy rocked our community. A young woman, Marie Smith, 20, was murdered less than three kilometres from the home I'd shared with Lyn. Police believed she'd answered the door to her attacker.

Just like my darling wife...

Police revealed they thought her killer had asked for a pencil and paper. After tricking his way inside and then sexually attacking her, he'd strangled her.

Chillingly, 19 months earlier, another young woman had been sexually assaulted in the same suburb by a man who knocked at the door asking for a pencil and paper. She'd kept the chain on the door as she'd passed the items through. But then he'd asked for a glass of water

before bursting inside.

Incredibly, she'd survived and when she'd described him to the police she'd spoken of a man with a red beard. Had the same person struck three times?

It seemed so. But the weeks turned into months, then years with no arrests. Focusing on our boy, I somehow struggled on.

Over time I had a couple of relationships and became a dad to two girls, Kelly and Rebecca. But moving on wasn't easy and seeing Shane grow up without a mum kept my desire to find her killer alive. 'They'll get him one day, Dad,' he'd tell me.

Every year I'd call police to check on their progress, and when new developments in technology became available I hoped it might help. Sadly, a hair found in Lyn's hands was lost, along with a semen swab from the scene, so running a DNA test was impossible.

But I haven't given up hope. Last year NSW Police launched

Strike Force Tourmaline, a fresh attempt to solve both murders and six sexual assaults all committed around the same time. They also increased the reward for information leading to a conviction. They still have a set of fingerprints found at the scene of Lyn's murder and believe someone locally may know the identity of her killer.

This June marked the 40th anniversary of Lyn's death but I won't rest until her attacker is caught. And that's why I'm appealing to you now. If you know something, speak to the police. You could help bring my wife's killer to justice. ■

*As told to Rebekah Scanlan*

If you have any information, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

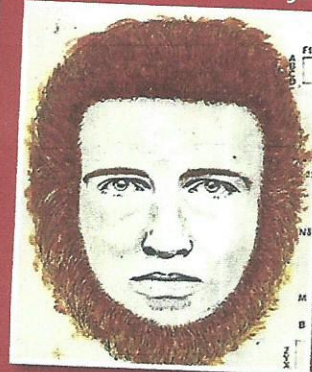
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## THE HUNT for the bearded attacker

➤ Around the time of Lyn White's murder in June 1973, a red-bearded man wearing long socks and shorts was seen leaving her unit block in Coogee.



➤ Several months earlier, in November 1972, another woman was sexually assaulted in the same suburb by a red-bearded, thin-legged man in his 20s who knocked at her door asking for a pencil and paper and then a glass of water.



Marie Smith

➤ Significantly, that glass of water fell to the floor and broke in an identical position to the mug found at Lyn's unit after her death.

➤ Police believe the same man was responsible for both attacks.

➤ On April 2, 1974, newlywed Marie Smith was murdered after answering a knock at the door. Police believe her attacker also asked for paper and a pencil.

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