

THE RISE OF AN ORGANISED BIKIE CRIME GANG

*Former detective sergeant Frank Scott
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In a West Australian newspaper article written by Sean Cowan and Gary Adshead, dated 1 June 2010 and headed *“Violent times in reign of bikie gangs”* they describe how modern-day bikie gangs were either active in or linked to the distribution of narcotic drugs, vehicle and motorcycle theft, the interstate transportation of stolen property, extortion and the illegal importation of firearms.

In that article, the authors also refer to the iconic days when the motorcycle crime gang Coffin Cheaters conducted their annual Bindoon Rock festival during the period 1986 to 1995. These annual rock concerts involved some collaboration with the WA Police to ensure that things went well for some tens of thousands of people who converged for the two days of grog and music.

It was at these concerts where the Coffin Cheaters were able to illegally supply and distribute vast amounts of prohibited drugs, launder large sums of money and illegally trade in liquor with total impunity. The enormous profits generated from these criminal activities made them an extremely powerful and a feared crime gang.

The head of that organised crime gang, Edward Horace Withnell, was closely associated with some senior police officers which made it impossible to conduct any probative investigation which could lead to any criminal charges. It was not until 2009 that Commissioner of Police Karl O'Callaghan first lodged a prohibition order against Withnell which led the Liquor Commission to conclude that he was not a suitable person to be employed on licensed premises and banned him from entering licensed premises for a period of five years.

Withnell was furious that in his application for a prohibition order, the Commissioner of Police had used confidential information which had not been provided to his lawyers and he made it quite clear that he intended to appeal against that decision. In his appeal to the Commission, he wrote:

"Scott had thrown a tissy fit at that concert but real coppers knew we had no drugs".

As a senior member of the Liquor and Gaming Branch back in 1991, I led a team of undercover officers where we were able to obtain photographic evidence of the illegal manner in which that concert was conducted and it is logical to conclude that the Commissioner of Police Karl O'Callaghan used the evidence which I had obtained some eighteen years earlier in his application for that prohibition order.

In addition, at a previous concert in 1989, I was contacted by a member of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and requested to conduct an investigation into a particular aspect of the modus-operandi of the Coffin Cheaters. He requested that I report my findings direct to him rather than through my divisional inspector and I strongly suspect that this intelligence was also used by the Commissioner of Police Karl O'Callaghan in his submission against Withnell.

Some weeks prior to that Bindoon rock concert my divisional inspector called me into his office and told me that he wanted me to lead a contingent of subordinate officers to travel to Bindoon over the weekend

of the 9-10 February 1991, where we would be allocated duties for the rock concert by the superintendent in charge of the Midland police district.

I initially refused, stating that it appeared that I was the only sergeant who was given this job as I had previously led a team during the 1988 and 1989 concerts and the duties that were allocated to me on those occasions were to set up a forward command post located in a farm barn close to the entry gates of the concert compound and stop vehicles entering the concert to search them for underage drinkers, drugs and obtain field reports.

As it was Police Department policy not to allow any police officers including Liquor and Gaming Branch members to enter the concert compound, there was no way of knowing if the Coffin Cheaters complied with the liquor laws or any other statute law.

I told the Inspector that I considered this a complete farce and we were only helping the bikies by seizing drugs from a small percentage of patrons who were stupid to enough to have them in their possession, as everyone knew that once inside the concert, they could obtain any type of illicit drug with complete impunity. I insisted that I would only do the job if I was allowed to enter the compound to determine if the laws relating to the Liquor Licensing Act were adhered to. After consultation with the superintendent he reluctantly authorised me to go into the concert compound.

As the date of the concert approached, I was required to attend a briefing at the Midland regional office, prearranged by the superintendent in charge of the Midland police district. Some ten minutes into that briefing, I was astounded to see Eddie Withnell, the head of the Coffin Cheaters bikie group and well known criminal, walk into the room.

He was invited to attend the briefing and within a short period, he took control and was giving instructions to senior police on how they should

manage their operational duties. It was a pathetic sight to see senior commissioned officers cower to his demands and I was sickened to see him dictate his instructions, knowing that he and his organized crime group would be free to peddle their drugs at the concert with complete immunity.

I introduced myself to Withnell and informed him I was from the Liquor and Gaming Branch and asked him what precautions he had taken to ensure that juveniles were not served with liquor. He stated that he had engaged security guards to prevent that from happening. I then informed Withnell that I would be leading a team of Liquor and Gaming officers and we would be located inside the compound to examine the manner in which liquor was sold and that prosecution would result if we gleaned any evidence of breaches of their Liquor License.

Withnell responded by telling me to contact him on our arrival and he would provide us with red arm bands so that we could be identified by his security staff. I scoffed at such a suggestion and told him that I had no intention of advising him of our arrival. During the weekend of that concert, my team covertly photographed the extent of breaches of the Liquor Licensing Act and gleaned surveillance evidence of the large volume and variety of illicit drugs which were openly available and distributed at that concert.

At the subsequent debriefing held on the 13 February 1991, at Midland police district office, sectional leaders were required to provide a synopsis and analysis of their portfolio to the superintendent in charge of Midland police district. During my private discussions with other plain clothed members just prior to the debriefing, I told them of my disgust at the superintendent for allowing the head of an organised criminal gang to attend and address the police briefing which had been held prior to the concert.

When I gave my verbal presentation, I advised the gathering of the complete anarchy which had occurred within the confines of the concert where the liquor laws were completely disregarded and the rampant use

and distribution of a smorgasbord of drugs were clearly visible to anyone who attended the concert. I strongly criticized the police hierarchy for failing to challenge the issue of the Liquor License and their hypocrisy in the manner in which they allowed major drug trafficking offences by the Coffin Cheaters to be conducted without the appropriate police intervention.

It appeared to me that the Police Commissioner's policy of random stop, search, detain and issue minor drug, liquor, and traffic infringements/work orders to the kids travelling to the concert for a good time while totally ignoring what was happening inside the concert compound was totally misguided.

I vented my deep feelings at such hypocrisy and told the superintendent of my intent to conduct a thorough investigation into the manner in which the Liquor License was granted and prepare a comprehensive report to my superiors with a view to prefer criminal charges against the CC Promotion Pty Ltd, the company controlled by members of the Coffin Cheaters, and their appointed nominee. It was also my intent to submit a further report together with a copy of the photographic and surveillance evidence which I had gleaned to the Liquor Licensing Court so that any future liquor application by the Coffin Cheaters could be challenged in court.

As I completed my presentation, I handed my notes to the superintendent and told him he could use them as a reminder just in case he forgot what I said. It was noticeable that after I gave my presentation, other sectional leaders began to support my claims and team leaders representing the Drug Squad and the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence confirmed my observations of the extent and type of drugs that that were being distributed by the Coffin Cheaters at that concert.

Some days later, I liaised with the officer representing BCI who handed me with copy of a confidential seven page report which was prepared by his undercover operatives and their report completely corroborated

my own observations that cannabis, amphetamines, LSD and ecstasy were openly available and distributed.

Some weeks later, the superintendent at Midland submitted his eleven page report and forwarded it to the acting chief superintended in charge of the Crime Support Services. I did not see this report until well after it was submitted. In that report, he wrote:

"A debrief was held at Midland Regional Office on Wednesday, 13 February 1991. All Sectional Leaders attended.

General consensus of all sectional leaders was that the police operation outside the concert site was good and that the continued police presence at this event was the reason little trouble is cause by concert patrons travelling to and from the concert venue.

However, concern was expressed by Liquor and Gaming, BCI and Drug Squad that policing of the concert site leaves much to be desired.

Observations on site indicate drugs are freely available and sold; health conditions ignored and the behaviour of many patrons are such that if the proprietor of licensed premises allowed such behaviour on his premises he would be prosecuted.

First class sergeant Scott of the Liquor and Gaming Branch has made a short report on his observations and opinions derived from his firsthand experience on site and from his own investigation. A copy of this report is attached, Attachment 5.

First class sergeant Scott will be submitting a full report to his superiors. All section leaders were in agreeance that the matter of increased on-site policing should be addressed before the 1992 Bindoon Rock Concert assuming one will be held."

As I commenced my investigation, I obtained the Liquor Branch master file pertaining to the Bindoon Rock Concerts and examined the

individual reports which had previously been submitted by senior officers' in charge of the Bindoon concerts and found a continuity of criticism levelled at the Police Department for allowing an organised criminal bikie gang to be issued with a liquor license. During my examination of the files, I was stunned when I came across a Liquor Licensing Court decision where the Director of Liquor Licensing had refused to grant a Liquor Permit to the Coffin Cheaters in a Liquor Licensing Court hearing two years earlier.

In his four page written decision, dated 12 January 1989, the Director refused to issue a Function Permit to authorise the sale of liquor at the Bindoon Rock Festival to be held over the weekend of 20-22 January 1989. He concluded that many of Coffin Cheaters club members had extensive criminal records and a total disregard for the law and therefore were not fit and proper persons to be involved in the sale of liquor on such a large scale as was intended at the Bindoon Rock Festival.

In his decisions he wrote;

"My third concern is whether the Club is a fit and proper person, or body of persons, to hold the permit. One of the objects of the Liquor Act is to ensure that liquor is not sold by persons who are not fit and proper to do so. In this case, the Club is not a legal entity (although it is related to companies which are). The Club comprises about 15 members. Many of those members have a long history of criminal offences.

Mr Withnell, for example, has several convictions for offences in the mid 1970's. These include assault, carrying an offensive weapon, disorderly conduct, possessing an unlicensed firearm, and, most seriously rape. For the last of these, he was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment with hard labour. He has received other gaol sentences for serious assault and a further eight years imprisonment in 1979 for robbery with violence. Other members, such as Patrick McKay, Bradley Wood, Christopher McKay, Peter Jewell, Mark Ashelford, Gut Turtun, Larry Allen, Trevor

Walton, George Cole and Jeffrey White have also been convicted of many serious offences in the 1970's and 1980's.

These cover a wide range of offences against the person and property, as well as unlawful possession of drugs and firearms. Some occurred within the last year or two. (In mid – 1987, for example, Jeffrey White was sentenced to 18 months gaol for receiving stolen goods)

While in most case, the most serious offence occurred several years ago, the nature and extent of the offences have led me to conclude that many of Club members have a disregard for the law and that, as a result, they are not fit and proper persons to be involved in the sale of liquor on such a large scale as is intended at the Bindoon Rock Festival.

Despite that court decision in 1989, the Coffin Cheaters continued to be issued with a Liquor Permit to sell liquor at their Bindoon concerts and I became extremely suspicious that some senior police officers had assisted Withnell circumvent the decision of the Liquor Licensing Authority.

At 10.30am on the 22 April 1991, I was approached by the superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch, who was in possession of an edited version of my debriefing notes which I had previously handed to the superintendent at Midland on the 13 February, 1991. He instructed me to sign a re-typed copy of those notes but after reading them, I refused to do so as they falsely represented what I said at that debriefing. I asked him how he had obtained those notes because they were prepared by me merely to assist my verbal presentation at that debriefing and were never intended to be used as an official report.

He stated that the superintendent from Midland had attached my notes as an appendix to his report which had been forwarded to the acting chief superintendent in charge of Crime Services.

He further informed me that the acting chief superintendent in charge of Crime Services was extremely upset at my criticism of the police

hierarchy and had my notes re-typed, omitting that criticism and had given him instructions to have me sign the new document. I told him that if the chief superintendent was not happy with what I said at that debriefing, he had my authority to remove those notes from the file as I had already given my verbal presentation and those original notes had never been signed. I considered that the superintendent at Midland had only attached them to his report because I had exposed his incompetence.

However my supervising officer insisted that I sign that false document and told me that my refusal would cause me heartburn and would not be good for my police career. After receiving that advice, I reluctantly signed the document and then walked straight over to the photocopying machine and obtained a copy of both versions of the document and then handed him the signed amended copy.

Some weeks later I was contacted by chief superintendent McMillan who was the substantive officer-in-charge of Crime Services and had just returned to work after completing his annual leave. He ordered me to immediately attend his office and convey all the photographic evidence which had been obtained at the concert. I did as I was instructed and during my discussion with him, I told him that I had obtained that photographic evidence to support my claims that liquor had been illegally sold at that concert and that I was in the process of compiling a report seeking his authorisation to initiate criminal charges against the Licensee Company, CC. Promotions Pty. Ltd. and their approved manager. I also told him that I intended to submit a further report to the Liquor Licensing Authority so that any further application for a liquor license by this organised crime gang could be challenged in court.

He ordered me to immediately cease my investigations into the Coffin Cheaters and told me that he was going to take personal responsibility for that inquiry.

He took possession of my photographic evidence which clearly established prime-facie evidence that the licensee company and their

approved manager had traded in liquor contrary to the terms of their Liquor License.

I heard nothing further from chief superintendent McMillan and I strongly suspected he was attempting to obstruct my investigation. As the main prosecuting witness who was able to give direct evidence of my personal observations at that concert, I expected that I would be required to provide a detailed statement and present those photographic exhibits in any subsequent court hearing. I was never interviewed or requested to prepare a statement.

On the 6 August 1991, I had a meeting with Superintendent Ayton, the officer in charge of the Internal Affairs Unit who was responsible for investigating allegations of police corruption and maladministration. I advised him of the circumstances of how Chief Superintendent McMillan was attempting to thwart my endeavours to initiate criminal charges against the company controlled by members of the Coffin Cheaters and their appointed manager. I also advised him of my strong suspicion that there were a group of senior police officers who had a close relationship with Eddie Withnell and were protecting him from prosecution and sharing in the criminal profits generated from the Bindoon concerts.

That meeting with Superintendent Ayton had initially been set up for us to discuss two major reports which I handed to chief superintendent McMillan dated 15 May 1990 and 19 June 1991 regarding liquor and gaming offences occurring in Port Hedland and Broome. I had previously forwarded a copy of those reports to superintendent Ayton.

My report dated 15 May 1990 was initiated after I received a telephone complaint from the detective sergeant-in-charge of the Port Hedland CIB at 11.30am 10 April 1990, when he informed me that the licensee of the Pier Hotel in Port Hedland had a total disregard of the Liquor Act and had engaged girls, supplied by a Perth based entrepreneur with connections to the Coffin Cheaters and some senior police, to perform lewd acts and simulated sex with patrons on stage. The licensee was also

strongly suspected of using the hotel rooms for the purposes of prostitution.

In an attempt to disrupt these illegal activities, the uniform staff at Port Hedland had conducted an investigation and obtained evidence that the licensee was trading in liquor contrary to the terms of his Hotel License and a brief of evidence was forwarded to the superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch seeking his authorization to initiate criminal charges against the licensee. However the Port Hedland police received no response and were extremely disillusioned that authorization was not forthcoming as ample evidence had been obtained.

As a result of what I was told by the detective sergeant from Port Hedland, I examined the office master file pertaining to the liquor license of Pier Hotel in Port Hedland but was unable to find the report he was referring to and therefore requested that he send me a photocopy of that report. I then conducted further inquiries and personally handed my report to the superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch and requested that he forward it to the chief superintendent in charge of Crime Services so that the appropriate criminal investigation could be initiated. Over the forthcoming months, I periodically asked him what action had been taken as a result of my report but was told that he had not received any response from the chief superintendent. I was later able to ascertain that he had failed to forward my report and had merely hid it in his personal filing cabinet.

In late April 1991, one of my subordinate officers approached me and advised that he had travelled to Broome during his annual leave where he was required to attend Court in relation to a civil matter. During his stay at a local hotel, he observed several unlicensed restaurants unlawfully dealing in liquor. I instructed the senior constable to prepare a short report of his observations and forward it to me and I would conduct further investigations.

He handed me his report on the 21 May 1991 and I later examined Liquor Branch files which identified a plethora of complaints emanating from licensees in Broome who had repeatedly made complaints to the Liquor Licensing Authority regarding the illegal manner in which some unlicensed restaurants continually sold liquor and in some instances were trading as night clubs without the appropriate liquor license. As a result of my inquiries into these allegations, I prepared a twenty-one page report dated 19 June 1991 and together with my previous report dated 15 May 1990, I personally went and spoke to chief superintendent McMillan and advised him of the evidence which I had gleaned which highlighted the lack of compliance to both the Liquor Licensing Act and the Gaming Commission Act in Port Hedland and Broome.

I told him that I considered that we needed to send a team of experienced Liquor and Gaming Branch investigators and agent provocateurs to those towns so that the required evidence could be obtained to prosecute the offenders as the Liquor Licensing Authority did not have competence or the legal jurisdiction to investigate criminal offences under the Liquor Licensing Act and the Gaming Commission Act. The chief superintendent advised me that he would examine my reports and get back to me.

During my meeting with Superintendent Ayton on the 6 August 1991, I advised him that I strongly suspected that the licensee of the Pier Hotel in Port Hedland was using the hotel for the purposes of prostitution as it had been done when detective sergeant Pace was the OIC of Port Hedland CIB in the 1980s.

I also advised him that on Sunday 2 June 1991, I had led a team of twelve officers from the Liquor and Gaming Branch where we raided a Hotel in Bunbury and obtained overwhelming evidence that the licensee was trading contrary to the terms of his Liquor License and that Chief Superintendent McMillan and the officer in charge of the CIB, chief superintendent Hancock, were attempting to pull my brief.

Superintendent Ayton said to me,

"Do you want me to go and pull them on about it?"

I said,

"No. They are not stupid enough to cough to it and when they find out that I made a complaint against them, I will be victimised and my Police career will be as good as over."

He said,

"I can tell you that Don Hancock has been running you down and he is no mate of yours. He's a lazy prick and I want to get rid of him so really there is no downside in allowing me to pull him on."

I said,

"I don't care what they think of me, the feeling is mutual as long as I am not victimised."

He said,

"You can't be victimised for doing your lawful duty."

I said,

"Ok then, if that is the case go for it."

On the 21 August 1991, I had a further meeting with superintendent Ayton who advised me that he had interviewed both chief superintendents Hancock and McMillan. He advised me that Hancock had denied my claims that he attempted to pull a brief of mine but McMillan had made an admission that he had given instructions to the superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch not to proceed with charges against the licensee of a Bunbury Hotel.

I expected that superintendent Ayton would take the appropriate action and charge chief superintendent McMillan with neglect of duty.

At about 2.30pm the following day, Thursday 22 August 1991, I received a telephone call at home from a male person who did not identify himself.

He said,

"Sergeant, you are supposed to be at work at 2pm is that right?"

I said,

"No. I start at 4pm"

He said,

"I've been to your office this morning and spoken to your staff and they said you were starting at 2pm"

I said,

"They obviously got it wrong. I am doing a special job tonight. Who am I speaking to?"

He said,

"This is chief superintendent McMillan. I've left a message on your desk to be in my office at 1430hrs."

I said,

"Well I obviously couldn't get the message if I don't start work until 4pm. I've been home all day, if you wanted to get me urgently, you could have rung me at home"

He said,

"Don't get cheeky with me son"

I said,

"I'm not being cheeky. You're the one who's accusing me of not being at work."

He said,

"Did you advise them of what time you were starting work?"

I said,

"I told them I was working afternoon shift because I've got an agent coming up from Perth to do two two-up games"

He said,

"Well I want to see you in my office at 1500hrs"

I said,

"Yes okay, I'll be there."

I arrived at his office at about 3.20pm. As I knocked on his door he said;

"Come in Frank. Thanks for coming in"

As I walked into the room I obtained my tape recorder from my pocket and place it on the table and told him that I would be recording our conversation.

As I turned my tape recorder on, he said;

"Firstly let me ask you why the defensiveness?"

We then spoke about his earlier telephone call to my home while we waited for a superintendent to arrive and also be present during the interview. At one point, he stared at me without saying a word and contorted his face whilst running his fingers across his throat in a threatening manner.

I said to him;

"I don't know what you're staring at."

He said,

"I'm just looking at that sign. Reading the sign on the painting. I'm just waiting for Mr to come down."

(pointing to a painting hanging above my head)

After the superintendent arrived, chief superintendent McMillan then said to me;

"Anyway, the upshot of it is Frank. With these reports that you put in and as I said to you a while ago, Mr ---- is off indefinite period, Mr ----- has come into the Branch and he is the Officer-in-charge at this point. We are transferring you back to Perth."

Sergeant ---- will be taking your place at Fremantle and we are transferring you to Perth on a special project, and you will start there at eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

You will answer direct to Superintendent ---- and he will give you directions on the special project that you shall do."

I said,

"Is this a punishment because of my reports?"

He said,

"No, there is no punishment.

I said,

"I consider it's a punishment."

He said,

"Well I'm telling you now – it's not a punishment. You have made a lot of allegations in your report about different matters. I'm concerned about the allegations and its only right that these allegations be brought to the forefront and the necessary paperwork and research done and charges made on the respective peoples and we can go ahead and I expect you to come up with the goods. The complaints, the Court Briefs and that. We can go through and then have it all dealt with and put all those people before the Courts. One aspect of it is that I put in my report that I want checked. (name of senior constable) went to Broome and consumed alcohol up there contrary to the Licence. Well he's got to be charged. You have to take out a defaulters court and charge him with neglect of duty."

I said,

"Oh come on."

He said,

"Well you have made the accusations."

I said,

"I have not. That is absolutely ridiculous. He was like everyone else there drinking liquor. What's wrong with that?"

He said,

"Well he's transgressed."

I said,

"What offence has he committed? Would you like to tell me what offence he has committed?"

He said,

"No. That's why I want you to research if an offence has been committed. This is why you will be given the paper to research all this so it can be brought and succinct quality so then we can decide what action to take."

I said,

"Is that right? Well I feel I'm being punished. I've already made an appointment with Les Ayton to see him straight after our interview here and I'll be playing him this tape."

He said,

"I've got nothing to hide. I've discussed this with Mr Scott, the Assistant Commissioner of Police this morning. I had a meeting with him, it was discussed and as I said I have great faith in your ability Frank. You have credibility as far as I'm concerned. I have no complaints against you and I'm bringing you back specifically for this job."

I said,

"Is that right? – Alright."

He said,

"So you will start back here at 8 tomorrow morning."

The superintendent then interrupted and read from a sheet of paper he was holding in his hand;

"This is the project and I'll read it to you because you have got the tape running."

First Class Sergeant Scott

Re: Allegations of misconduct, impropriety and implied corruption.

With immediate effect I require you to provide me with a written report incorporating all aspects of the evidence, beliefs and perceptions you hold in relation to any misconduct, impropriety or corruption relating to any matter within the Western Australia Police Force and the names of Police members directly or indirectly involved.

For the purposes of this project you are to occupy the interview room in the reception area at Level 2, Liquor and Gaming Branch, Perth.

You will liaise with myself only in this project and if you require reference from any documents I am to be notified immediately and, before you acquire that document.

In the interests of confidentiality you should not discuss this with any person not already familiar with your allegations.

Initially your report should start with an explanation as to why Liquor and Gaming Branch files numbers AJ292 and AA 47 were handed by you to a junior member at Fremantle for photocopying and the intended disposition of both the original files and the photocopies

Please note this file.

Signed by ...

Dated August 22, 1991

Further in the interview, chief superintendent McMillan said;

"Now I'm concerned that you've gone to Mr Ayton. Mr Ayton has come and interviewed me regarding no action on some of these files so hence you have in effect tied my hands by having to get something done to it, so that is why now I've cut it off at the pass and said you will come back and give me specific incidents with recommendations on what should be done.

For instance the Director of the Licensing Court, I would expect for you to draft letters for me so that I can write to them and explain, express our things which would go through the Commissioner to sign and that sort of thing and there is no reason why you can't do

it because our human resources are such we've got to be efficient and you've carried out this investigation on it so far so why put somebody else who has got to do the whole lot you've done. That's management."

I said;

"I think I would enjoy that."

He said,

"So that's what this is all about. Okay."

I said,

"How long will I be doing this project for? Will I go back to Fremantle when I finish this project?"

He said,

"Well that will be re-assessed at the time. We will wait into the outcome of Mr Ayton's inquiry because obviously he is inquiring into me for inaction of the Bindoon Rock file."

As soon as chief superintendent McMillan mentioned the Bindoon Rock File, I immediately realised that superintendent Ayton, the head of the Internal Affairs Unit had placed me in extreme jeopardy by informing McMillan of the complaint I made against him. Even the most junior detective knows that you never expose an informant because you can place them in extreme danger.

The manner in which superintendent Ayton exposed me as his informant was completely contradictory to the manner in which he had previously investigated the former Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Frank Peters. On that occasion he received information that the Deputy Commissioner was surreptitiously meeting journalists and as a result he planted listening devices in his office and had him under constant surveillance. That is exactly how I expected he would treat the information I provided him.

The following morning 23 August 1991, I went to see him. Both of us had previously worked together as sergeants in the CIB Fraud Squad in the early 80s under the leadership of senior detective sergeant Colin

Pace, one of the most corrupt officers ever to have served in the Western Australia Police Service.

Superintendent Ayton was fully aware of the investigation that I carried out together with detective senior sergeant Kevin Rowe and Jim Allen in 1988 where we were able to establish a corrupt association between senior detective sergeant Pace and race horse trainer Bob Meyers.

As a result of our investigations, Bob Meyers was charged with numerous extortion charges and was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment and detective superintendent Pace, as he was then, resigned from the police service. Further information of the corrupt activities of former detective superintendent Pace can be read on my previous report on the Whistleblowers Australia website at <http://www.bmartin.cc/dissent/documents/Scott17.pdf>

During my meeting with superintendent Ayton, I informed him what had occurred during my interview with chief superintendent McMillan and how he had instructed me to conduct an investigation into police corruption. He had also ordered me to charge a fellow member of the Liquor and Gaming Branch with neglect of duty merely because he had obtained evidence of the manner in which some unlicensed restaurants had illegally traded in liquor at Broome.

I told him that it was not my job to conduct internal investigations into allegations of police corruption; nor was it my job to conduct internal investigations into disciplinary offences against my colleagues. I considered it was totally unethical for me to conduct any internal investigation and report my findings directly to the very senior officer who I claimed had acted corruptly.

After I played the tape recorded interview to him, he said that he considered me to be a very good investigator and had confidence in my ability to perform the required investigation. He said that he couldn't do the investigation himself as he was due to leave for England within a short time to conduct inquiries on behalf of the WA Inc Royal

Commission. He told me to conduct this investigation straight down the line and he would ensure that I was not victimised.

He also said that he would inform the commissioner of police of my predicament and if I experienced any victimisation or my investigation was being hindered in any way, I was to contact his colleague within the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU), inspector Alan Watson, who he said would take the appropriate action.

When I told him that I was given three weeks to conclude my investigation and considered that was totally inadequate and I expected it would take me six months, he told me to submit a short report and apply for an extension of time and he would guarantee it was granted.

As I commenced my investigation, I received a memo from Chief Superintendent McMillan on the 28 August 1991, claiming that I had made a complaint to Superintendent Ayton of impropriety at the Fremantle Liquor and Gaming Branch whereby briefs had been pulled, briefs not proceed with and charges not proceeded with. I was instructed to produce evidence of these offences and was shocked after reading that memo as I had never made any such allegation and the only complaints I had made to the Internal Affairs Unit about anyone pulling my briefs was himself and chief superintendent Don Hancock.

I knew that either he or superintendent Ayton was not being truthful and I therefore drove to the Internal Affairs Unit to question superintendent Ayton.

I showed him the memo and after reading it he said;

“ The stupid cunt has lost his marbles, I didn't say anything of the sort”

Superintendent Ayton then advised me to write the memo off in a short paragraph stating that the allegations were false and that he would corroborate me.

When I returned to my office, I wrote the file off in precisely that manner and did not get any further response from chief superintendent McMillan.

Further into my investigation, I transcribed the tape-recorded interview with the chief superintendent McMillan and, as instructed, I forwarded him a copy of the transcript. As soon as he received his copy, I was immediately summoned to his office where he was in an irrational rage and as I went to turn my tape recorder on, he screamed at me and ordered that I was not to tape-record our conversation.

His irrational, provocative and demeaning attitude towards me resulted in a heated exchange between us where I came very close to assaulting the madman. At the conclusion of our heated conversation, I immediately went and spoke to Superintendent Ayton and advised him what had occurred during that meeting.

When I went to play the tape which would show his irrational demeanour, I found that I did not properly engage the tape recorder and had failed to record any of our conversation. Superintendent Ayton told me to make immediate notes of that conversation and give him a copy.

Notes of record of interview between Chief Superintendent McMillan and Sergeant Scott held at his office at 9am Friday 30 August 1991.

I entered the room and sat down.

He said,

"Are you tape recording this conversation?"

I said,

"No. but I intend to. (Got tape recorder from my pocket)

He said,

"I don't want this conversation taped. Turn it off.

I said,

"Why?"

He said,

"Because I'm a Chief Superintendent and I'm not going to have my interview taped."

I said,

"I know you are trying to charge me. I'm not going to be set up."

He said,

"You are not going to be set up. Now turn it off."

I said,

"No"

He said,

"I am ordering you to turn that tape off otherwise I will charge you with disobeying an order."

I said,

"Okay then. (Turned tape off) I am not going to say anything without the presence of a solicitor."

He said,

"You don't require a solicitor; you are not under any jeopardy."

I said,

"Okay, what do you want to speak to me about?"

He held up the transcript of our previous interview, which I had typed, and given a copy to Superintendent ----.

He said,

"Where did you get the paper to type this?"

I said,

"I didn't"

He said,

"Don't get smart with me"

I said,

"I'm not being smart, I didn't get the paper, the typist did."

He said,

"Did she type this out in work time?"

I said,

"Yes"

I noticed that he was writing down my answers.

I said,

"If you are going to make notes of this conversation, so am I."

I then opened up my brief case and obtained a pad to write on.
The chief superintendent yelled;

"Look son, don't get smart with me. Take your brief case outside."

I went and placed my brief case near the door. I then returned to sit down. Still yelling he said;

"I didn't tell you to sit down. Stand to attention. I am a Chief Superintendent and you are to show me some respect."

I said,

"Yes Sir." (In a sarcastic manner, I came close to assaulting the madman)

He said,

"Now sit down."

When I sat down he said,

"I have told you about the budget restrains we are having. Who gave you permission to have this transcript typed?"

I said,

"I told Superintendent ----- that I would get it typed out and give him a copy."

He said,

"Well I will be speaking to him. You have no right to use the typist to transcribe the tape during work time."

I said,

"She didn't transcribe that during work time. I transcribed the tape in my own time and got her to type it out."

He said,

"You have no right to have that typed out during work time."

I said,

"Why not?"

He said,

"This is a private matter and she is not to type out private conversations"

I said,

"It was not a private conversation. It was an interview where you gave me instructions. I needed a typed copy so I knew everything I had to do."

He said,

"My instructions to you are all typed out. What I said to you isn't instructions, they mean nothing."

I said,

"Okay then"

Chief Superintendent McMillan then spoke of his experience in the Police Force, the Committees he was on, his degree in Legal Studies, his knowledge of defamation Laws, his knowledge of union matters. He then went on and said that police are different from other jobs and that time spent on annual leave goes on to annual leave for the following year. He said, therefore (the senior constable) transgressed the Liquor Licensing Act even though he was on annual leave.

He stated that (the senior constable) should have gone to the Broome Police and given them the times he drank liquor unlawfully so that they could take out complaints and summonses against the Licensee. He then went on to say what he had done since he had been in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch.

He said how he gave instructions to Superintendent ----- to obtain evidence of offences at the Bindoon Rock Festival

I said,

"You did not. When Superintendent ---- gave me the job, he instructed me not to go inside the compound."

It was I who insisted that if I was going up there, I was going to go inside to get evidence of breaches of the Occasional Licence. In fact some of the boys overheard him saying. "If that silly cunt wants to go in there and get killed, let him. They might do something about it then" So if you gave any instructions to him, they certainly weren't passed onto me."

He quickly changed the subject and went on and spoke about other matters. He held up a typed sheet and read me the contents. He accused me of going through other members' lockers at Fremantle.

I said,

"That's a whole heap of crap. I don't know where you got that from. I didn't even know they had private lockers."

He said,

"Well, I'm not a vindictive person. I'm not going to do anything about this matter. (He held up the file and tore it up in front of me) But you are a very vindictive person. You haven't got any friends in the job."

I said,

"I don't have any friends on this floor because I'm not a suck hole, but I'm happy with my friends."

He said,

"Mr ---- is a very sick man. He phoned me up because he heard rumours of what was going on and I had to tell him everything. If he has another attack it's on your hands. It will be all your fault because of the stress you are causing him."

I said,

"What stress? I'm the one under stress. It's me who you are trying to charge."

He said,

"It's because of this file that he's done nothing with."

I said,

"He has had it for a year. It's not my fault that he has done nothing about it."

He said,

"You are a very angry, vindictive person, aren't you?"

I said,

"Look, my brother has MS and he was quite happy to spend the last bit of his police career in Port Hedland before the disease forced him to leave. But because he dared to send me a copy of a report where a Sheila got a bloke up on stage of a hotel where they had simulated sex, he got in the shit. I put a lot of work into that report and I submitted it because something needed to be done about it. The Port Hedland uniform blokes were complaining about the Liquor and Gaming Branch."

He said,

"Stan? I didn't know anything about that but I'll check it out to see if that is correct."

I said,

"You don't think they are going to cough to that? He was told that he was coming back to Perth for his health. They made his life miserable and he has had to go on permanent sick leave. So yes, I am angry that nothing has been done about my report. I put a lot of work into it and it cost my brother his job. I didn't submit it just to be locked in superintendent's --- draw."

He said,

"Well I didn't know anything about that, but why are you so vindictive? Superintendent ---- has told me that he had to serve you with written instructions as well."

I said,

"No he didn't. It was Tony Mott. I don't know why superintendent --- is running me down because I was the one who got all the evidence so that he and detective sergeant----- could lock up Bob Meyers and all the baseball bashers."

He said,

"I've been told that you set up Chief Superintendent ----- by taping a conversation and giving it to Peter Ward. I've been instructed to get rid of you because you're no good, but I'm not vindictive, I don't hold any grudges."

I said,

I didn't set up chief superintendent ----- . I just told the truth. I'm the one who got set up in the CIB and that is why I will always tape my interviews, because I know how you blokes work."

He said,

I'm not trying to set you up Frank. If I've got anything to say to you, I'll look you straight in the eye and tell you."

He then continued about how I directed my anger inwards and how I should spend a couple of days in a place to release my anger and I would feel a lot better. He spoke how people can tell when you're angry and how you are the last person they sit next to etc etc.

I listened to all his crap and he finished at about 10.10am.

I continued my investigation into the instructions he gave me to charge my fellow working partner with neglect of duty. My inquiries established that there was no evidence on which any disciplinary charge would succeed and, further, I found the allegations made by chief superintendent McMillan against the senior constable were false and possibly breached Police Regulation 602(d). My recommendation was that this matter should be forwarded to the officer-in-charge of the Police Internal Investigation Section so that further inquiries could be conducted with a view to initiate disciplinary charges under the provisions of Police Regulation 602(d).

His assertion that the senior constable should have gone to the Broome Police Station and given them the times he unlawfully drank liquor in unlicensed restaurants so that they could take out complaints and summonses against the licensee showed how incompetent and ignorant he was in the manner in which investigations in the Liquor and Gaming Branch were conducted.

Firstly, there was no licensee as the restaurant traded illegally without any liquor license and in addition every police officer in country towns would have been fully cognisant that under Police Regulations and Routine Orders, uniform police officers did not have autonomous powers to commence criminal proceedings pursuant to the Liquor Licensing Act 1970. They were required to forward a brief of evidence to the superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch and obtain his authorization before they could commence any criminal proceedings against the offender.

The senior police constable who had personally witnessed offences committed under the Liquor Licensing Act whilst he was on annual leave in Broome informed me of those offences at his earliest opportunity after returning to work and I submitted the report as required under Police Regulations.

I continued my investigation and submitted numerous other reports with supportive evidence to substantiate my claims of improper or corrupt conduct by senior police officers. On the 9 September 1991, as the three week period which I was given to complete my investigations was about to expire, I submitted a short report as I had been advised to do by superintendent Ayton, stating that I had nowhere near finished my investigation and requested an extension of time to bring my investigation to a satisfactory conclusion. That request was denied and instead, chief superintendent McMillan instructed me to reorganise the Liquor and Gaming branch file room which was the normal duty of our office cadet.

Shortly later, he sent out memos to all city and suburban Liquor and Gaming branches instructing all officers to attend a special meeting at the CIB headquarters auditorium. During that meeting, he advised all the attendees that there was one officer from within that was making allegations that they were all corrupt and that he had spoken to the Assistant Commissioner for Crime, Mr Bruce Scott (no relation), and that Mr Scott held members of the Liquor and Gaming Branch in high regard and the officer concerned was told to put up or ship out.

He then said,

“Sergeant Scott. It is best that you leave this room, we don’t want you present during this meeting.”

As I left the room, I felt extremely humiliated by being falsely accused of making allegations that all members of the Liquor and Gaming Branch were corrupt. By this time I was aware that superintendent Ayton had departed for England so I made an appointment to see inspector Allan Watson at the Internal Affairs Unit as I had been advised to do.

He told me that he had no knowledge of my investigation and stated that I always had a propensity to swim against the tide and I should go with the flow. I was flabbergasted by such remarks coming from a member of the Police Internal Affairs Unit who was supposed to be conducting investigations into police corruption.

On the 18th September 1991, I was contacted by a detective inspector, a personal friend of mine, who informed me that chief superintendent McMillan had forwarded all my investigative reports to the Internal Investigators and gave them instructions to charge me with criminal defamation and suspend me from duty without pay.

I became extremely concerned for my welfare and despite superintendent Ayton previously assuring me that I wouldn’t be victimized for doing my lawful duty, this is exactly what was happening. As a result, I consulted my private doctor who placed me on seven days sick leave and at the conclusion of that period I commenced my eight-week annual leave.

On the 1 October 1991, I was again contacted by my friend and advised that the internal investigators had analysed my investigative reports and found that there was no basis to support any criminal charges against me, however when I returned to work the Commissioner of Police was going to order me to be examined by a psychiatrist with a view to have me certified insane.

Shortly later I received an unexpected visit at home from the acting superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch who was accompanied by the superintendent from Internal Investigators. He was the same officer who had assessed the reports I had submitted as a result of my investigation into police corruption. During that assessment, he obviously came to the conclusion that no serving police officer can be charged with criminal defamation under the provisions of the Criminal Code unless it could be established that he had knowingly and maliciously made false claims.

All my investigative reports were truthful and supported by documentary evidence so there was never any possibility that a charge of criminal defamation against me would have succeeded and any competent investigator would have known that from the very beginning.

The purpose of their visit that day was to inform me that I had been immediately transferred to central police station and all my plain clothes allowances had been rescinded. The acting superintendent from the Liquor and Gaming Branch then demanded that I hand over my police identification badge. I refused to do so stating that my police ID badge was my personal property and he did not have the legal authority to seize it. He then informed me that he would authorise an extra two days to be added onto my annual leave if I attended at Staff Office and exchanged my ID badge from a plain clothed officer to a uniform officer.

He had no qualms about any police budget restraints as chief superintendent McMillan did when he questioned me about the police typist using departmental paper to type out the transcript of our interview.

Immediately they left, I contacted the Police union and ascertained that the Police Department did not have the authority to rescind my plain clothes allowances whilst on annual leave as that allowance had accrued over the preceding twelve months when I was entitled to it. I therefore had my plain clothes allowances re-instated.

The information provided to me by my friend regarding the attempts that were going to be made in having me certified insane and the way in which I had been transferred from the Liquor and Gaming Branch caused me great distress and I again consulted my private doctor and informed him of my fears. I considered that if these corrupt police officers knew of a corrupt psychiatrist, then I could find myself being certified insane.

As a result, my doctor prepared a referral dated 22 November 1991, to a local psychiatrist. In his referral letter, he stated;

“Frank is a detective who has recently been engaged in investigating his senior colleagues. It is rather a horrific and disturbing picture of graft amongst his senior colleagues which, at this stage at least, I feel should not be committed to paper. Suffice to say that he has been placed under extreme duress at work which apparently has included threats to have him certified. In view of the personal threats which have been made against him and the enormous stress he finds himself under, I have advised him to seek your opinion”.

After numerous consultations with the psychiatrist, he recommended that I be placed on sick leave for a further three months suffering from a work related stress disorder. In his report to my private doctor, he stated;

“His principal purpose in consulting me was to establish that he is not certifiably paranoid and I was able to reassure him that he shows no evidence of psychosis. The diagnosis is of a stress disorder related to work circumstances and the treatment recommended is supportive psychotherapy.”

“Certainly, he is trying to deal with his current problem by head-on collision, which I think is his usual strategy. Unfortunately, it may not work this time and he may well be the only casualty. Clearly, we must support him in his attempt to expose police corruption and, to this end, I

have recommended three months sick leave, at the end of which I would be prepared to board him out if we have made no headway.

At about 10.30am on Tuesday 7th January 1992, whilst I was on sick leave, I was again visited at home by the superintendent attached to the Internal Investigators and one of his colleagues. He served me a notice on behalf of the Commissioner of Police instructing me to present myself before the Police Director of Health Services, Dr Dare, on 14th January for a medical examination.

As they entered my home, I said to them;

"What have you got for me now?"

The Superintendent said,

"This is a notice for you to be examined by the District Medical Officer."

I said,

"Is this the beginning to try to have me certified, is it?"

He said,

"I am only the messenger."

I said,

"Looks like I will have to consult a solicitor."

He said,

"You don't need a solicitor Frank. You know as well as I do that they have the power under Police Regulations to have you examined by the Medical Officer."

I said,

"I know what those cunts are up to. You can tell them their day will come."

He said,

"Frank, I am only doing the job I was given."

I said,

"Yes I know Col. I don't mean to take it out on you. I'll be there and the Doctor can examine me."

At about 8.30am on Thursday 9th January 1992, I arranged a meeting with superintendent Ayton where I provided him with a copy of all my investigative reports which I had previously submitted to chief superintendent McMillan as well as a running sheet which I maintained contemporaneously with my investigations. During my discussion with him, I advised that I had received information that the chief superintendent McMillan and other members of the police hierarchy would be attempting to discredit my investigation by ordering me to be examined by a psychiatrist with a view to have me certified insane and I considered the order served on me by the Commissioner of Police was the first step in that process.

He laughed and said that they were trying to break me and he wouldn't allow them to have me certified. I told superintendent Ayton that he may consider it to be funny but I was under extreme pressure. By this stage I had lost all confidence that he was genuine in conducting a proper investigation into my complaints of police corruption and considered that he and the Commissioner of Police, Mr Brian Bull, had set me up because of my determination to expose corruption by high ranking officers.

On 14th January 1992, I attended on the second floor 246 Adelaide Tce, Perth where I had an appointment to see Dr Dare at 2pm. When I attended at his surgery I introduced myself, produced the instructions served on me and said,

"I've been instructed to present myself for a medical examination and here I am, but I won't be divulging any information."

He said;

"Yes, the Internal Affairs Section advised me of the notice. What I've been asked to do and this is not directed specifically at you, is to conduct a survey of officers who take time off work suffering under stress when they are under investigation by the Internal Affairs."

"My prime concern is for the patient and I would not reveal anything without your consent but we have to balance things out. It appears that a lot of officers book off work suffering from stress when they are under investigation."

"I don't know whether you are aware of all the goings on at Eucla, but some of those officers saw me and booked off work suffering from stress."

"I have been told that any investigation is suspended while the officer is off sick, but all they do is delay the inevitable because they must return to work at some point and all they accomplish is delay the inquiry."

I said;

"These particulars don't apply to me."

He said;

"But you are under investigation by the Internal Affairs Section, aren't you?"

I said;

"No"

He said;

"But these instructions in this notice were made by the Internal Affairs section."

I said;

"Yes, but they are just being used as the Post office."

He said;

"What do you mean?"

I said;

"What happened was that I was given an inquiry to do. During this inquiry I submitted reports alleging impropriety by some senior officers. Instead of investigating my allegations, which were supported by evidence which I obtained, they have sent me here to you. In other words any police Officer who makes allegations about their senior officers is treated as a nut case. They have already tried to do that to one officer. The officers who I have made my allegations about are very senior and therefore they use the internal Investigations to do their dirty work. Those officers from the Internal Affairs merely served the notice on me. A Police Cadet could have done that."

He said;

"Oh, I thought you were under investigations by the Internal Affairs."

I said;

"That's how they operate. They twist the truth and use people like you to achieve their objectives. I have known for some time that they were going to send me to see you with a view that you would refer me to one of their shrinks and try to have me certified."

He said;

"I can't refer you to anyone you don't want to see."

I said;

"I know. I've read the Police Regulations and they can only force me to see you and I've complied with these orders. I am here and you can physically examine me but I don't have any physical ailment that I am aware of. I am suffering from stress and I have consulted my own doctor for that ailment."

He said;

"I have been told to assess whether you are fit for duty."

I said;

"You are not qualified to make that assessment."

He said;

"Has your doctor referred you for any specialised treatment?"

I said;

"That is between me and my doctor and I certainly am not going to tell you what treatment my doctor has prescribed for me."

He said;

"Don't you trust me?"

I said;

"It's not a matter of not trusting you. Both you and I have the same bosses and it's them I don't trust. If you don't know what action my doctor has taken to treat my stress, then they can't manipulate you to reveal any confidential information."

He said;

"But then I can't say whether I agree with your doctor. If you tell me the details, I can report to them that I concur with your doctor. I would not reveal any details"

I said,

"It appears to me that they are questioning the integrity of my doctor and they better be careful otherwise they could have a writ dropped on them for defamation. I have an appointment to see him tomorrow and I will tell him what is going on and show him these instructions. As far as I am concerned this is just adding to the stress I am suffering."

He said,

"Well, all I can tell them is that you have been uncooperative"

I said,

"No. That's incorrect. I have complied with their request to be medically examined. That's why I'm here. Go for your life."

He said,

"That will only be a waste of time"

I said,

"That's all I am legally required to do. What you want me to do is reveal privileged information. You are not my doctor and I am not under any legal obligation to tell you any privileged information."

He said,

"Well all right then. I will just say that I have been unable to assess you."

I said,

"What you can tell them is that I have a competent doctor who is addressing my stress problems and this continual harassment is only adding to the stress I am suffering."

He said,

"What do you mean harassment?"

I said,

"Shortly after I submitted my reports alleging impropriety, I went on annual leave. They sent two officers from the Internal Affairs and I was immediately transferred. They stopped all my allowances against the Police Award. These were quickly re-instated when I put the Police Union onto them."

He said,

"I know nothing of these matters."

I said,

“Doctor, there are many matters which you don’t know about. This just shows how they will use honest people to achieve their means.”

He said,

“Well if ever you want to come and speak to me, please do. I will help in any way I can.”

I said,

“I’ll do that doctor. When all this is resolved.”

After the above conversation with Doctor Dare, I left his Surgery at 3pm.

At 9.30am on the 5 February 1992, I received another visit by the same two commissioned officers who served me with further notice from the Commissioner of Police, on this occasion requiring me to present myself before psychiatrist Professor Alan German on the 19 February 1992 for a medical examination in accordance with regulation 1312(1).

As I let them into my home, I said;

“I’ve got my tape recorder and will be taping this before we go any further.”

The Superintendent said;

“Yes, alright. I’ve been instructed to serve you with a notice to attend a medical practitioner.”

I said;

“What another one? I’ve already done that, I’ve seen the District Medical Officer.”

He said;

"Yes I know. This is another medical practitioner."

I said;

"They keep on going don't they. Can I have a read through these instructions?"

As he handed me the document he said;

"On the back of the form is the regulation 1312(1) which is the regulation requiring you to see a medical practitioner."

I said;

"Before I do anything, I'll be in touch with my own doctor to see what he says."

Shortly after, I made another appointment to see my psychiatrist and advised him that the predictions I had made were now materializing and if Professor German was a friend of any corrupt police officers, I had a major problem. He pacified me by advising that he knew Professor German and had worked with him in Uganda. He stated that Professor German was an extremely competent professional who would not be influenced by any corrupt police officers.

On 19 February 1992, I had my first meeting with Professor German and had a further session with him on the 18 March 1992.

To assist him in assessing my mental health, Professor German obtained medical reports from my private doctor and consultation psychiatrist. In his forwarding report dated Sunday, 22 March, 1992 to Dr Brian Dare, Medical Officer of the West Australian Police Department, he reported;

"First-class Sergeant Franklin Scott shows no evidence of psychosis and, in particular, is not given to paranoid formulations. His mental health and emotional state is generally good but currently shows evidence of work-related stress disorder....."

He is a highly intelligent and meticulous personality, somewhat rigid, who relates to work by seeing it as potentially hostile and therefore an object of suspicion until circumstances prove otherwise. In the face of hostility, his proven method of survival is to fight. These are personality characteristics which are uncomfortable for many to live with, and the nub of this problem can be summarised as reflecting personality problems and difficulties."

"His accusations are not a consequence of paranoid delusions or paranoid attitudes. It is not my function to make assessments of the merit or accuracy of his complaints..... I do not expect the present stress disorder to do other than persist and quite probably become more severe while the present work situation continues..... It seems to me unlikely that the circumstances that have disturbed Scott over several years can be altered to his satisfaction and that being so I believe he should be retired from the Police Force on work-related medical grounds, suffering from stress..... related symptoms."

In a subsequent report to my Lawyer, Professor German wrote;

"The only matter that was not entirely within my scope to assess was the extent to which Mr Scott's statements of dereliction of duty and corruption amongst fellow officers was accurate. However, I did not form the opinion that he was lying, nor was there any evidence for a paranoid delusional illness influencing his perceptions."

I simply had to assume that what he said was at least partially correct. To some extent, this was very substantially confirmed by the nature of his symptoms which were typically stress-related. They were the symptoms of an individual reacting to a difficult set of circumstances with fear, sufficiently severe to produce physical psychosomatic symptomatology"

"I express the opinion that these characteristic attitudes have led Mr Scott into some considerable strife with colleagues, particularly senior colleagues, whom he regarded as failing in their duties.

Whilst the detail of this can be argued about, there can be no doubt that the conscientious attachment to duty which is invariably shown by would bring particular stress to such a person in direct proportion to the degree of observed "corruption" or "perceived failure to act according to regulation" amongst senior colleagues in a position to make life difficult for him."

"I note further down in the same report, that in addition to his perception of he also experienced high levels of stress because he perceived corruption amongst some of those around him. I noted that if his perceptions were correct, then he could be regarded as a loyal and competent public officer who broke down in the face of stresses, including perceived threat to life, which went beyond anything he should have been expected to face in the work place".

"I have also noted, in commenting on the above report, that at times he had fears for his life. His view was that, as someone accusing other officers of corruption, he might be in danger. I have no information which would enable me to say whether that was a reasonable reaction or not, but certainly he feared that he could be at risk. To illustrate that, I told him that I considered him to be potentially suicidal and would so report. He begged me to say nothing about suicide. His reason was that if he were seen to be a suicidal person this would assist any person bearing him lethal animosity who might then take advantage of this stated potential to cover up a crime. He was quite terrified by the situation and he pleaded with me to remove this opinion because of his fear that it would provide cover for a possible killer."

When Professor German first advised me that he was going to recommend that I be discharged from the Police Force on medical grounds, I made an appointment to see superintendent Ayton at the

Internal Affairs Unit at 1.00pm on Monday 23 March 1992. When I arrived at his office inspector Watson was also present.

There I told them of the manner in which I had been transferred from the Liquor and Gaming Branch and the way I had been treated after my unfinished internal investigation into police corruption. Superintendent Ayton told me that he had spoken to the superintendent from the Internal Investigators and informed me that he was not my enemy. He said that the superintendent wanted to speak to me and that he would make an appointment for me to meet with him.

Superintendent Ayton then told me that he considered me to be a good police officer and I should hold my head up high and go back to Central Police Station and teach the young constables how to become good police officers and forget about police corruption. When I told him that I would be the oldest police officer walking the beat for the rest of my career, he told me to nominate any police station and he would ensure that I was transferred there. I did not tell him that I was going to be discharged from the police force on medical grounds.

As I was about to leave, I handed him a copy of the 132 page treatise which I had written back in 1989 which dealt with the corrupt association between race horse trainer Bob Meyers and detective superintendent Colin Pace. I had kept that document confidential as I always expected that I would be victimised by senior police officer for the stance I had previously taken against the corrupt activities of superintendent Pace.

As I was now being victimised by senior police officers and was about to lose my job because of my investigation into their corrupt conduct, I considered it was perfect timing to hand that document to superintendent Ayton. I also handed him the documents which I had obtained from the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence regarding the member of the Mr Asia Drug syndicate. As I left his office, I told him that I expected him to investigate the contents of those documents.

At 2pm on the 1 April 1992 I had a two hour conversation with the superintendent from the Internal Investigators who I knew well and always considered him as a friend. Basically he attempted to dust me down and gave me his friendly advice not to pursue my claims any further because they would only continue to cause me a lot of stress.

I remained on sick leave until Thursday 22 April 1993 whilst I took legal action against the State Government Employees Superannuation Board who had failed to pay me with my rightful superannuation entitlements. I was finally successful in obtaining those entitlements with the assistance of Professor German and my Lawyer.

In the mean time, Superintendent Ayton the officer-in-charge of the Police Internal Affairs Unit was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) in the latter half of 1992 and then to Deputy Commissioner of Police on the 24 August 1994.

Despite his promotion and knowledge of my previous complaints to the Internal Affairs Unit regarding the illegal manner in which the 1991 Bindoon rock festival had been used by the *Coffin Cheaters* to facilitate their drug trafficking, laundering their criminal proceeds and illegally trading in liquor, no attempt was ever made to terminate their criminal activities. This outlaw motorcycle gang continued to be issued with a liquor permit for their annual Bindoon rock concerts and it was business as usual to propagate their criminal empire with the blessing of Assistant Commissioner, and then Deputy Commissioner of Police, Leslie Donald Ayton.

There was no investigation carried out into the allegations that the licensee of Pier hotel at Port Hedland was trading in contravention of his liquor license and using the hotel for the purposes of prostitution. Although a thorough investigation had been conducted by senior constable Seery of the Port Hedland police, who had forwarded a brief of evidence to the Superintendent in charge of the Liquor and Gaming Branch, the licensee of the Pier Hotel was never charged. The only overt consequence of these matters was that the detective sergeant who had

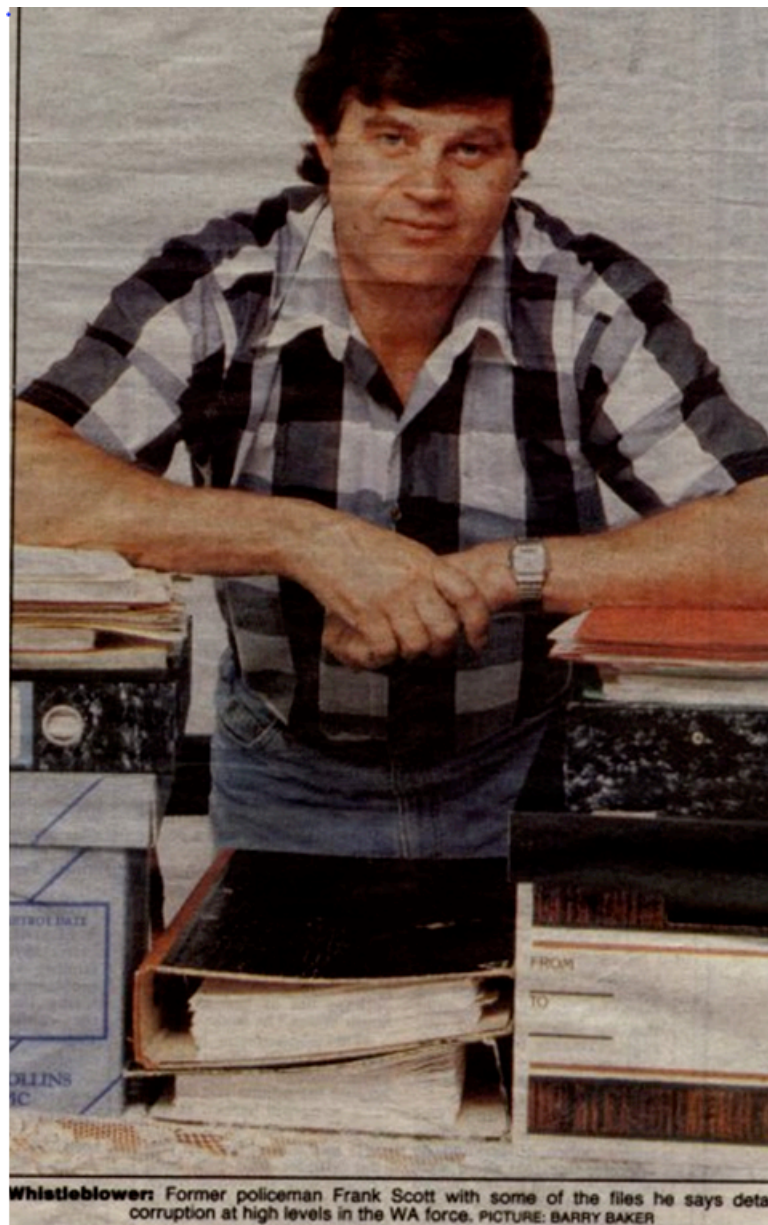
sent me a copy of senior constable Seery's report was severely reprimanded and transferred back to Perth by the chief superintendent in charge of the CIB, Don Hancock.

The senior constable from the Liquor and Gaming Branch who witnessed some unlicensed restaurant in Broome illegally trading in liquor whilst on annual leave, and who I had been ordered to charge with "*neglect of duty*" by chief superintendent McMillan, was promoted to the rank of sergeant as his personal assistant.

Due to personal reasons, I took no further action into my allegations of police corruption until 7 September 1995. I then made my complaint of corruption by senior police officers public.

Top policeman corrupt: claim

By Luke Morfesse - Thursday September 7 1995



In an article in the West Australian Newspaper on the 7 September 1995, I made claims of police corruption and was reported as saying that there were senior officers in the WA Police Force whose corrupt behaviour could be traced to the early 1980s. I also stated that I had numerous cardboard boxes full of documents which would substantiate my allegations.

Shortly after that newspaper article was published, I was contacted by the Assistant Commissioner for Professional Standards, Jack Makay, who advised me that the Commissioner of Police, Bob Falconer, who had replaced Brian Bull as the Commissioner in June 1994, was prepared to have the documents in my possession independently assessed by two senior federal agents from Canberra.

I agreed to that proposal and on the 3 October 1995, the two Federal Agents, Superintendents Wells and Killmier attended at my residence where I supplied them with a copious amount of documents. During their assessment, they would contact me on occasions when they required my assistance and on one occasion, they advised me that they had read through the transcript of my interview with chief superintendent McMillan and asked me whether I was still in possession of the tape recorded cassette. They required that cassette so that they could verify the accuracy of my transcription and I was able to provide them with that original cassette.

I was extremely impressed with the thorough manner in which superintendents Wells and Killmier had scrutinized the documents I had provided them and it took about eight months for them to evaluate their evidentiary significance. Upon concluding their assessment in about April 1996, they contacted me and advised that they had identified seventy separate issues of corruption or serious misconduct which should have been previously investigated by the officer in charge of the Police Internal Affairs Unit, superintendent Ayton.

It was also quite significant to note that since the inception of the Bindoon rock concert in 1986 run by the Coffin Cheaters outlaw bikie gang, they had failed for the very first time to obtain a liquor permit for their 1996 concert and have never held one since that date.

After examining their report which became known as the Wells/Killmier report, the Assistant Commissioner (Professional Standards) Mr Jack Mackay contacted me and requested a meeting with me and my Lawyer, Mr Peter Ward.

That meeting was held at my residence where Mr Mackay expressed his concerns regarding the issues identified in that report and in particular the manner in which the Bindoon Rock Concert, controlled by the outlaw motorcycle gang the Coffin Cheaters had been conducted over the weekend of the 8-10 February 1991. He stated that he regretted that the Police Department had failed to challenge the issue of Liquor License applications made by the Coffin Cheaters for their annual Bindoon Rock concerts and said that the Department would have to accept any criticism regarding their policy at the time.

He then advised Mr Ward and me that the Commissioner of Police intended to establish a joint task force of Federal and State Police to further investigate the issues identified in the Wells/Killmier report and asked for my assistance in the proposed investigation. On the 21 May 1996, the Tartan Task Force was established and I agreed to be interviewed and debriefed on the proviso that I was given a copy of the transcript of my tape-recorded interviews.

At the same time as the Tartan Task Force was conducting their investigations into issues of corruption and maladministration identified in the Wells/Killmier report, an upper house Parliamentary Committee headed by Hon Derrick Tomlinson MLC (Chairman) and Hon Reg Davies MLC (Deputy Chairman) was also investigating Police corruption and released their interim report on Thursday 6 June 1996.

The following night ABC journalist, Sean Murphy interviewed the Deputy Commission of Police Les Ayton on the current affair program "Stateline" and a transcript of that interview is listed below.

Interview on Stateline between journalist Sean Murphy and Deputy Commissioner Les Ayton.

Murphy;

“Frank Scott, the former police whistleblower, said that when he came forward with serious allegations of police corruption, he was not given enough support. What do you say about that?”

Ayton;

“By me, you are saying?”

Murphy;

“By you and others.”

Ayton;

“Well I reject that assertion. Frank Scott had been talking to me over some considerable period and I have given evidence of all that to the Parliamentary Select Committee. Frank Scott took a decision that he wanted to confront the issues finally that he was concerned about. I offered him my support and gave him some advice. Unfortunately within a couple of days I was bundled off to London for completely different reasons, nothing to do with police corruption and what Frank feels, that was me letting him down. That was out of my control.”

Murphy;

“Granted that Mr Scott’s case is a complicated one, could I at least ask you one thing about it? He said that when he came forward with serious allegations of corruption involving one branch of the CIB, he was ordered to investigate some of his own superior officers. Wouldn’t that be the job you would expect the Internal Affairs Unit to do?”

Ayton;

“Yes. I’ve actually had that allegation put to me previously. Certainly if that is true, it has happened outside my knowledge and it happened while I was out of the country. I don’t know whether it did happen or it didn’t happen, but if it did, it was not the correct thing to do. You should never have to investigate your own allegations of corruption and it should be something that was done by the internal officers or depending on the nature of the

investigation, a special task force. But A, I don't know whether or not that is true and B do not know who gave the order. It was not me. I was in London."

On Wednesday 11 June 2003, I gave sworn testimony before the Royal Commission investigation police corruption and during my evidence, I was questioned by Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission, now Hon. Justice Stephen Hall, regarding the issue of having to conduct an investigation into my complaints to the Police Internal Affairs Unit.

MR HALL: So you were being tasked to investigate your own complaints about your own superiors?

Yeah.

Did you complain about this situation?

I certainly did.

-- to Superintendent Ayton? --

Yes, I did.

What did you say to him?

I told him that I wasn't in Internal Affairs, it was a matter of his, it was an internal inquiry. He had the staff to do that and I could hardly be expected to conduct an investigation into my -- into my own superiors.

And what did Superintendent Ayton say to you?

He said to me, he said, "Frank, you're a good investigator." He said, "You go straight down the line and I'll cover your back."

Did he also say that he would brief the Commissioner?

He did. He told me that within a matter of days he was due to go to England to conduct inquiries for the WA Inc Royal Commission. He told me he had briefed the Commissioner of Police on my investigation and further, he said if I had any problems, if I was being victimised, to come and see Allan Watson, who was the acting OIC of the Police Internal Affairs Unit, to come and see him and he'd sort things out. I also -- I also complained to him that I had been given three weeks to conduct this investigation. I considered it was nowhere near long enough. I considered it would take me at least six months. What Ayton said was, he said, "Well look, once the three-week period is up", he said, "put in a short report for an extension of time and I'll ensure that you get it."

Shortly later the Commissioner of Police Bob Falconer and his Deputy Commissioner Les Ayton became embroiled in a public dispute which resulted in Deputy Commissioner Ayton resigning from the Police Force. When members of the Tartan Task Force visited him at home to question him regarding issues identified in the Wells/Killmier report, he refused to cooperate with the investigators.

At the conclusion of the Tartan investigation, a report was submitted to the Commissioner of Police and as a direct consequence of its findings, the Commissioner closed down the Liquor and Gaming Branch.

In his 2009 appeal against the prohibition order banning him from entering licensed premises for a period of five year, Eddie Withnell claimed that "real coppers knew we had no drugs". It is these same real coppers who I strongly suspected were protecting Withnell and sharing in the criminal profits generated at the Bindoon rock concerts when I spoke to superintendent Ayton on the 6 August 1991.

Despite the fact that the State Ombudsman, the Attorney General, the Police Royal Commission investigating police corruption and then later the Corruption and Crime Commission were supplied with information regarding these issues, not one of those real coppers has ever been investigated.

Violent times in reign of bikie gangs

SEAN COWAN and GARY ADSHEAD, The West Australian June 1, 2010, 9:03 am

The 1974 bikie funeral of a man they called "The Preacher" attracted a wide cross-section of the community.

Nuns wearing their crisp, white habits stood shoulder to shoulder with outlaws dressed in trademark scruffy jeans and check shirts at Karrakatta Cemetery in Shenton Park. The sisters had crucifixes around their necks. The brotherhood was cloaked in sacred club patches.

One of the men in the funeral cortege would go on to become the biggest name in WA motorcycle gang history. He is Coffin Cheater Edward Horace Withnell.

There was another significant figure there that day to farewell John McGinty, who died in a crash. It was his brother, James Andrew McGinty, who would become the State's attorney-general in 2001 and take the fight up to the bikie gangs.



DPP Robert Cock and Attorney-General Jim McGinty astride a confiscated motorbike. Pic: Rod Taylor

When Jim McGinty trumpeted the first seizure of a Harley-Davidson under new criminal asset confiscation laws in 2002, he and then Director of Public Prosecutions Robert Cock posed for a photograph on the \$20,000 motorcycle. The Preacher, a bikie who liked to quote from the Bible, would have been turning in his grave.

He would be equally disturbed at the way sophisticated organised crime has permeated the good old boys who were happy in their clubs with booze, bongs and birds.

According to police intelligence reports, the modern-day bikie gangs are either active in or linked to the "distribution of narcotic drugs, vehicle and motorcycle theft, the interstate transportation of stolen property, extortion and the illegal importation of firearms".

In the past two years, the clubs have become so offended by adverse publicity, police attention and new laws to control them that they have set up a national union and hired a public relations and lobbying company.

It's hard to imagine how the gangs can complain when one of them, the Gypsy Jokers, was involved in the car-bombing murder of a retired WA police commander and his friend in 2001. Don Hancock, aka the Silver Fox, was killed as payback for the unsolved shooting death of Joker Billy Grierson in Ora Banda, where Hancock owned a pub. Hancock's mate Lou Lewis was collateral damage. Only one Joker, supergrass Sidney "Snot" Reid, was convicted of the crime - on his own admission. He gave evidence against Graeme "Slim" Slater, who was cleared by a jury in 2003. The bombing took the already fearsome reputation of bikies to a new level.

Nevertheless, the gangs haven't been so self-conscious about their image and reputation in the wider community since the days of the iconic Coffin Cheaters-organised Bindoon Rock Festival.

The rollicking annual weekend event, which ran from 1986 to 1995, involved some collaboration with the WA Police to ensure things went as well as possible for the tens of thousands of people who converged for two days of grog and music.

One copper accused his colleagues of turning a blind eye to crime and wrote a stinging report, which found its way to his superiors in 1991.

"Once again Bindoon Rock was held on the weekend and once again the police are patting themselves on the back on a job well done," wrote Sgt. Frank Scott. "Each year we have officers ... gathering intelligence and informing the department of the smorgasbord of drugs that are supplied and sold at these concerts.

It is difficult to reconcile how the department can allow such hypocrisy when dealing with laws relating to liquor and drugs."

Under considerable stress, Scott was discharged from the department after a 22-year career and took on whistleblower status, appearing in a series of media reports. But his claims are rejected by the Coffin Cheaters to this day.

Withnell, now retired from the gang, wrote in a submission to the Liquor Licensing Commission of WA last year that Scott had "thrown a tissy fit" at that concert, but "real coppers knew we had no drugs".

"I will not deny that later all kinds of bikies became involved in crime; some organised, some totally disorganised, (but) certainly not more than any other social, governmental, ethnic, religious or cultural group," he wrote.

It was during the Bindoon Rock era that the bikies took on a bigger profile than ever before. The 1970s and 1980s had seen WA's four established gangs expand almost unhindered. The God's Garbage, based in Albany, held the South-West, while Bayswater was the home of the all-powerful Cheaters, the stoush-loving members of the Gypsy Jokers were based in Maddington and the largely anonymous Club Deroes headquarters was in Cloverdale. The Cheaters also established chapters in Bunbury and Fremantle. Before The Preacher met his maker in 1974, there was a variety of smaller clubs.

Back in the day, the Cheaters, Deroes, Jokers and Garbage proudly rode their bikes alongside members of Satan's Commandos, Epitaph, Devil's Disciples, Filthy Few and Gutter Rats. It was only after one particularly messy all-in "run" through the South-West that many of the smaller clubs were folded into - or patched over by - the bigger clubs.

By the late 1980s, the big four were strong. Police believed they were also moving into organised crime, using their traditional love of a fight to form strong gangs capable of carrying out substantial drug deals. Police were especially worried about the Coffin Cheaters and the power that would come with the money and connections they had made at Bindoon - especially in the year or so before the festival ended.

Yet police would soon come to appreciate the strength of the Cheaters and the other WA clubs when an interloper from across the Tasman set up shop in Perth.



Eddie Withnell

The Mongrel Mob had a reputation for untold violence in New Zealand and the WA gangs were unhappy when they opened a chapter in Perth and moved into minor areas of organised crime. The Mongrel Mob was fencing stolen electrical items and selling drugs. But not for long.

During a week of bloodshed in late 1989, several WA gang members were arrested. Their main target had been Perth Mongrel Mob chapter vice-president Selwyn Wharepapa, who owned a Midvale motorcycle repair shop. First, his business was firebombed by Gypsy Joker David Roy Kirby and then he was shot outside his Swan View home by Gypsy Joker Paul James Hugo, who was in a car being driven by God's Garbage bikie Ronald Mark Scott. The Mob didn't want it to be a case of third time unlucky. The four gangs, who were fronted by Withnell as spokesman, claimed they were the good Samaritans when they acted. Asked at the time if he condoned the shooting of Wharepapa, Withnell said: "We live in very real times, and some people are thrust to the front line of a very real situation."

The gang left town after key Kiwi member Michael "Pixie" Moke negotiated the terms of the surrender with Withnell.

But whatever spin the Mongrel Mob tried to put on things, it was obvious they didn't have the stomach for the fight so far from home.

"Gang members going from here to Australia are like babes coming into an adult world," one New Zealand police officer said cheekily after hearing of the backdown.

Eventually, the existing gangs relaxed their so-called "four gang policy".

In 1996, a gang called the Rebels moved into Perth and Busselton and were quickly in trouble for drug dealing, while both the Gypsy Jokers and Club Deroes expanded into Kalgoorlie in the following year. Five God's Garbage members became suspects in a gang rape of a Quinninup woman who later committed suicide. They got away with it after maintaining their code of silence.

But bokie gang violence escalated and police pressure on the gangs grew by the day. It was only a matter of time before another war started and this one wouldn't end so quietly.



The remnants of Don Hancock's car in which he and friend Lou Lewis died.

In the years which followed Bindoon Rock, the Coffin Cheaters had made the most of their success. Their clubhouse, which stretched across two blocks in Raleigh Road, Bayswater, was decked out like a dream bachelor pad, despite a courageous petition from local residents.

"For years, the activities of the Coffin Cheaters club have been a source of annoyance to those living nearby, due to their complete disregard of nearby residents," the petition read.

It was water off a duck's back to the Cheaters, who had invested in a company called Compri-Tube which looked like making a fortune out of new pipe-cleaning

technology. The other clubs, meanwhile, were still operating in the shadows, especially the Club Deroes.

When the Deroes kicked Kevin "Mad Mick" Woodhouse, a nominee and suspected amphetamine cook, out of the gang and the Cheaters took him in, war was inevitable. The bikie code forbids such treachery and Woodhouse owed the Deroes money. The Cheaters had been warned by a Gypsy Jokers member that Woodhouse was not to be trusted and had been informing on fellow gang members while in jail.

Mad Mick wasn't to be taken lightly and had a reputation for violence. In the mid-1990s, he and three other Club Deroes hogtied and beat one-legged Pingelly man Martin Devaney after Devaney had quit the gang. They claimed they had just gone around to get his Deroes memorabilia back when things got out of hand.

It was May 1998 when the first public target of the bikie war was chosen. Withnell was attacked by Club Deroes bikies at the Broken Hill Hotel in Victoria Park and had his head cut open. Four days later, Coffin Cheater David Whittaker was admitted to Swan District Hospital with a gunshot wound to the left leg.

A few weeks later, a Club Deroes bikie had both legs broken by a gang of masked men armed with baseball bats in a carefully planned raid on a Bayswater factory. The scale of the war became abundantly clear when a Cheater was caught by police just metres from the home of a Deroes member in Balga. He was nursing a loaded illegal automatic shotgun, commonly known as a street sweeper. The police strategy designed to minimise the bloodshed was named Operation Gallipoli.

But the battles raged on. Club Deroes member Ian Gangell was dragged out of his van by four men and beaten with clubs and iron bars outside his home in South Guildford. Two weeks later, Mad Mick himself was shot in his car in Beechboro. He managed to drive to the Cheaters' clubhouse in Bayswater before being taken to hospital.

In September, the war spilt into Perth Magistrate's Court where a Club Deroes member was punched in the face by a Coffin Cheater while sitting in the public gallery. Days later, 20 rounds of ammunition were fired from three weapons at a house in Lion Street, Carlisle, and Raymond Washer, a former Club Deroes member who had joined the new Rebels bikie gang, was lucky to escape unscathed.

A month later, the violence was reaching its fatal crescendo. Club Deroe Mark Doyle was ambushed on his way to work by a shooter waiting in bushes near a Roe Highway on-ramp. His car was sprayed with bullets as he drove past and he was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds to his spine.

The next day Coffin Cheater Marc Raoul Lucien Chabriere was shot dead in his car in Welshpool while fellow gang member Mick Anderson was shot in the arm. Baby-faced Club Deroe Andrew Wayne Edhouse was eventually charged with murder, but on June 27, 2001, he was acquitted at trial.

The trigger for the war, Mad Mick Woodhouse, would eventually join Chabriere on May 12, 2004. A man on a motorcycle drove up and shot him dead while he stood waiting for the Bayswater Waves aquatic centre to open. A security guard told police Woodhouse used his dying breath to name his killer as "Johnny Montoyo". In the end, a friend of the bikie called Johnny Montani was charged. He was tried three times for murder, the first was a hung jury and the final an acquittal.

During the Cheaters-Deroes war, the Deroes had to cope with unwanted police attention over the disappearance of 28-year-old Lisa Joanne Govan. She had vanished after last being seen outside the Deroes' Kalgoorlie-Boulder clubhouse at 7.30am on October 8, 1999, where she had arrived earlier from a nightclub in a taxi.

Govan was believed to be dead, dumped down one of the thousands of mineshafts dotting the Goldfields, and members of the bikie gang were murder suspects. The Deroes stayed true to their code of silence and much to the anguish of Govan's family, the disappearance remains unsolved.

The Cheaters, too, had problems when one of their high-profile members became involved in a murder investigation. On February 25, 2000, Jacqueline Margaret Neville knocked on the door of a house in suburban Mirrabooka. Little did she know that a high-tech security camera was recording her every word and every move.

"How are you going, mate," she asked the 30-year-old who answered the door. "What do you want," he asked. Neville answered, "You", before pulling out a gun and firing seven shots through the flyscreen door. One of those shots hit the man, Michael Wright, in the chest and he died within minutes.

At the time, Neville was the wife of Coffin Cheaters bikie Mark Raymond Hinchliffe. She had had an affair with Wright, which had enraged her husband, who bashed Wright and demanded \$50,000 from him. He also bashed Neville with a Cheaters belt, poured boiling water over her and forced her to shave her head. But the final insult was his demand she get a tattoo around her waist which read "Property of Mark Hinchliffe".

Wright complained to police and Hinchliffe was charged. But Neville, who had suffered years of abuse, saw herself as a traitor to her husband and decided to kill Wright to make amends.

Hinchliffe, whose phone was bugged by police still investigating the bikie war, made the mistake of telling a friend he had bashed his wife so hard that "she just keeps bouncing off my fist". He was sentenced to six years jail. Neville will not be released from jail until at least 2015, but while in jail she has claimed compensation from the State for the injuries her husband caused. The taxpayer will also foot half the bill for the removal of her tattoo.