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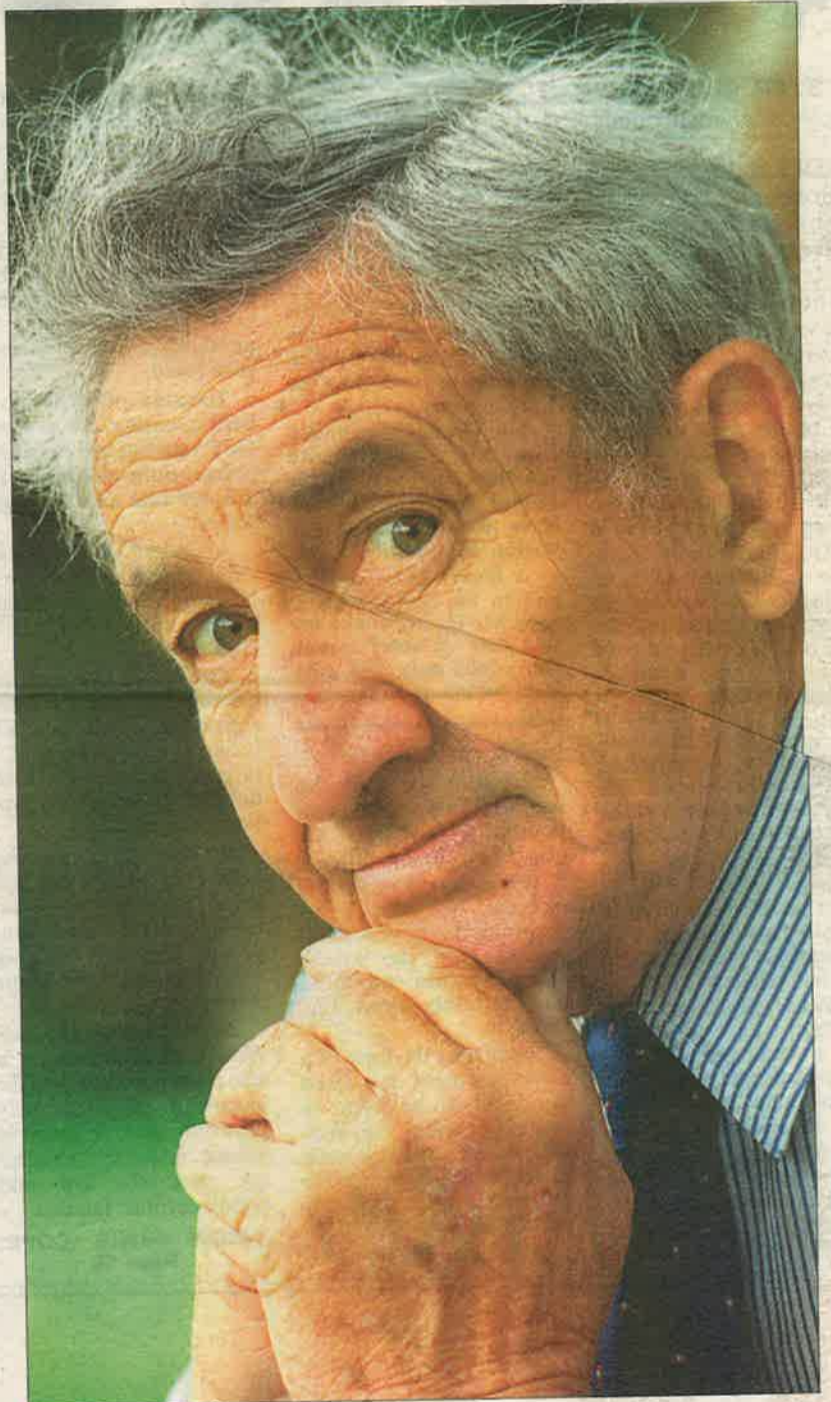


Today in Sport PAT LEADS AUSSIE CHARGE



CHILD SEX MP SLAIN

Beaten
to death
then
stabbed
with his
Rotary
badge
and
tiepin



By LIZ HANNAN and ANNA PATTY

FRANK Arkell, the former NSW MP and Wollongong Lord Mayor who was to face trial on 29 sex charges, has been bludgeoned to death and mutilated at his home.

In a macabre twist, the self-proclaimed champion of civic duties had his Rotary badge rammed into his eye by his

killer and a tiepin stuck into his face. Arkell's murder came after he had lived in fear of his life for two weeks.

Friend Dorothy Johnson said: "He had disgusting things painted on his fence, windows broken and people yelling and screaming abuse as they drove by. If you've been kingpin for a long time, that's a long way to come down."

The brutal crime has been linked to the

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BRUTAL END: Former NSW MP and Wollongong Lord Mayor Frank Arkell, top. Left: Police officers load evidence into a van yesterday.

HOWARD'S \$2,000 COMPO PLAN FOR GST LOSERS PAGE 2

Painting was not his Bond



COPY THAT: Above, detail from Frank Germain's *Beach Buddies*. Below, Bond's charity painting.



DISGRACED entrepreneur Alan Bond's career as a budding artist may not be all it's cracked up to be.

The one-time sign-writer produced a painting which sold for \$3,800 at a charity auction last week for Pymble's Mount St Bernard Primary School.

An alert *Sun-Herald* reader noticed that the painting, depicting seagulls on a beach, was remarkably like one used in a how-to-paint book.

But new owner Dam-

ian Judge wasn't too disappointed. He said: "Alan Bond painted it, so that's the main thing. The money was for charity."

The work derives from American artist Frank Germain's work called *Beach Buddies* in the book *How To Draw And Paint Watercolours*.

Reader John Andrews, of Windsor Downs, said the book was only intended as a guide.

Authorities at Karnet prison farm, near Perth, refused to allow calls to Bond.

Double life

By ALEX MITCHELL

AS Lord Mayor of Wollongong and independent State MP for Wollongong, Francis Neville Arkell's community profile couldn't have been higher.

But the man known as "Mr Wollongong", who was awarded an Order of Australia in the 1992 Queen's Birthday honours list, led an obscene double life.

In utter secrecy, he was a child-sex predator.

He wasn't conducting homosexual relationships with consenting male adults. His depraved tastes involved forcing sex on innocent boys as young as 10 and 12.

It was illegal, immoral and life-destroying for his victims.

Amazingly, his influence with the police, the Church, the council, parliament and sections of the media was so powerfully pervasive that for decades he was untouchable.

At the peak of his manipulative power, he was hailed in the Sydney media with a typical article in 1981 saying: "His city calls him Mr Wonderful, and no wonder."

"Lord Mayor Frank Arkell wastes no opportunity to extol the virtues of 'wonderful, wonderful Wollongong'."

"The handsome bachelor of independent means was at it again yesterday. 'It is a wonderful, wonderful city, so why shouldn't I say so?' he asked."



HOW THE NEWS BROKE: The Illawarra Mercury of May 16, 1996.

Another article, under the headline "Human dynamo keeps the Gong on forward

course", said: "To the public he is Mr Perpetual Motion. They say you have to nail his boots to the ground for the briefest of chats."

"They're not far wrong. Big Frank Arkell, bachelor Lord Mayor of Wollongong is, like the city he represents, a man on the move."

"Fired by a fierce belief in the future of the place they called the Foundry of Australia, he powers through each day, hell-bent on advancing the cause of his beloved 'Gong."

"There are no let-ups, no stops, no breathing spaces."

But behind the scenes, the smooth-talking Arkell was a practising pedophile with an insatiable appetite for boys.

He brought them to State Parliament's dining room and had sex with them in his parliamentary office. He sent his official car to pick them up and return them home, sometimes to and from Wollongong.

He and another former Wollongong mayor, Tony Bevan, haunted bars, motels and hotels where they attracted boys with promises of money, plied them with alcohol and used them for sex.

Last month, *The Courier-Mail* revealed that Arkell had Brisbane boys delivered to his Wollongong address in Reserve Street in the early 1980s.

A driver for the pedophile ring said he took an Asian boy, aged 13 or 14, from Brisbane to Wollongong and collected him two days later.

His downfall began in State Parliament in December 1994, when Heffron MP Deirdre Grusovin read a statutory declaration naming Arkell as a "pederast".

He protested his innocence and Mrs Grusovin lost her place in Opposition leader Bob Carr's shadow Cabinet for speaking out.

With the advent of Justice James Wood's royal commission, the net began to tighten.

Arkell was summoned to give evidence - awarded the codename "W1" - to answer allegations that he and Bevan, who died in 1992, were the organisers of a vile child-sex ring.

It was a secret witness, codenamed W26, who brought Arkell undone in spectacular fashion.

Over several days he gave testimony, much of it censored, that he was seduced into the Lord Mayor's sex ring in 1973



SHOCKED: Arkell's lawyer Peter Daly (right) at the murder house yesterday. Picture: KEN JAMES

Police hunt serial killer after

From Page 1

killing of another Wollongong bachelor, David John O'Hearn, 60, at his nearby Albion Park Rail home two weeks ago. Mr O'Hearn was beheaded.

It is believed a female friend delivering bread and milk found Arkell's battered body in the granny flat behind his home in Reserve Street, Keiraville, about 8.15am yesterday.

The shocked friend called an ambulance and police, who were said to have been horrified by the scene at the home, which adjoins a large park.

Arkell's head had been beaten severely.

Ambulance officers rejected speculation that he had been dismembered or sexually mutilated.

A spokesman said Arkell, 67, was found lying on the floor of the flat. He was wearing long green pants and a singlet.

He appeared to have put up a fierce struggle and had been dead for some hours.

Police closed a large section of Reserve Street as forensic officers photographed the scene and police scoured Arkell's backyard and neighbouring parkland for the murder weapon or other evidence.

They removed a door to test for fingerprints.

Arkell's lawyer and friend Peter Daly arrived at the house in a distressed state and spoke briefly to police before speeding away.

Strike Force Lema detectives, who are investigating the unsolved killing of Mr O'Hearn, arrived at the scene to help in the investigation.

Detective Inspector Geoff Leonard, of Crime Agencies, said investigators could not rule out a link to Mr O'Hearn's death.

Similarities between the killings are that both occurred on a Friday night and both victims appeared to have been struck on the back of the head with a blunt instrument.

Inspector Leonard said the last known sighting of Arkell was about 2pm yesterday outside his home.

He appealed to anybody who saw Arkell after that time to contact police.

He said Arkell appeared to have been killed by blows to the head with a blunt object, but an autopsy would be held at Glebe today to determine the exact cause of death.

Police said Arkell had been fearful since Mr O'Hearn's death.

Vandals had sprayed his house with graffiti regularly over the past few years and had struck as recently as the past

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of Mr Wonderful



WALL OF SHAME: Arkell and a policeman inspect the graffiti on the MP's home after his royal commission appearance.

'Tireless' work praised

HIS name blackened by pedophile charges, Frank Arkell will be remembered for his notoriety rather than his lasting contribution to the city he loved.

Wollongong Federal Labor MP Stephen Martin praised his work in the community, but said the allegations against him would overshadow his achievements.

"Frank Arkell occupied a position of some importance in the city for a very long time," said Mr Martin.

"In his public life as mayor and State MP, he always did his best for the city."

Wollongong City Council general manager Rod Oxley said Arkell did a lot for the city's growth during the 1980s.

"I don't think there was anyone that didn't know about wonderful, wonderful Wollongong."

A former political ally at Wollongong City Council, Ted Tobin, said Arkell regrettably would not be remembered for his tremendous work in lifting the steel city out of its economic doldrums.

"Frank worked tirelessly for the betterment of the city in his dual roles as mayor and local State MP," Mr Tobin said.

His Labor successor as Lord Mayor, David Campbell, said the death had shocked the community. "There is a sense of shock and sadness with a lot of people," he said.

"People will remember him for 'Wonderful Wollongong', which he used to promote the City over a decade."

Former Deputy Lord Mayor Bill Barnetson said: "He was a great spokesperson and ambassador for the Illawarra and Wollongong."

at the age of 12 in a Wollongong public toilet. W26 named more than 100 alleged pedophiles, their associates and the people protecting them.

In March last year, six months after the royal commission wound up, W26 went to the Fairfax-owned *Illawarra Mercury* to ask why the NSW police had not acted on his evidence.

He was furious that Arkell and other active pedophiles were escaping prosecution.

The witness, now 38 years old, had served time for armed robberies and pedophile offences and blamed the former MP, who was educated by the Christian Brothers, for his life of crime.

In October 1996, Upper House MP Franca Arena named Arkell and former Supreme Court judge David Yeldham as high-ranking pedophiles who had managed to escape exposure and prosecution. A few weeks later Yeldham took his own life.

On May 27 last year Arkell appeared in Wollongong Local Court charged with 29 sex offences involving boys and young men between 1973 and 1984.

They included 14 counts of indecent assault on males, five counts of buggery, eight of sexual intercourse without consent and two counts of administering a stupefying drug (alcohol) to commit

an indecent assault.

When he was committed for trial in February this year on some of these charges, Arkell was a lonely, ruined old man who had become a public pariah.

In a written statement to the Wood royal commission in August 1996, Arkell strenuously denied the charges made by his accusers.

"I am not and have never been a pederast or pedophile," he wrote.

"I have never had sexual contact with a male under 18 and never in a public toilet."

Perhaps there is someone who thinks otherwise. And yesterday he extracted a terrifying revenge.

Crusading editor has no regrets

PETER Cullen, editor-in-chief of the *Mercury*, yesterday expressed shock at Frank Arkell's violent demise, but no regrets about his paper's part in his downfall.

"Like everybody else in the community, I am shocked, not only with Frank Arkell's death, but the way it occurred," Mr Cullen said.

"He was due to face a trial in September on very serious sexual assault charges and I was convinced he would be found guilty. And again I must say that a lot of my sympathies are with the victims who were sexually assaulted as boys in their teens and who today are grown men torn apart by what happened to them."

For almost a decade, Mr Cullen has pursued Arkell and his evil pedophile network with terrier-like persistence.

In March, Arkell began defamation proceedings over a story in the Fairfax-owned daily, and one of its senior journalists, Lisa Carty, claiming aggravated damages.

The story, headlined: "This boy claims he had sex with Frank Arkell", showed a photograph of a teenage Scout on crutches who was royal commission witness W26.

- ALEX MITCHELL

child sex MP slain

few months. The words "W1 you are a wanker" remained on his fence yesterday.

W1 was Arkell's codename during the royal commission into the NSW Police Service.

One of Arkell's two alleged victims was "devastated" by news of the killing and felt he had been robbed of his day in court, set for September.

"Even though he was murdered, he has had the last laugh," the man, now aged in his 30s, said from his Wollongong home yesterday.

"Maybe he has got his justice, but I have not got mine."

The man said his court experiences, in which he had to

relive the sexual crimes allegedly committed against him as a teenager by Arkell had been extremely gruelling.

He said he had been terrified about the prospect of going back to court, but he had been relishing the prospect of Arkell's conviction.

"Whoever has done this has robbed us of our justice," he said.

Arkell was the third and last surviving person associated with Wollongong's city council who was an alleged key member of an organised pedophile ring.

Arkell's predecessor as mayor, Tony Bevan, died of cancer in 1992, four years before allegations were aired at the

Wood royal commission that he was a leader of an organised child-sex ring that specialised in boys and the notorious Costello's boys' brothel in Kings Cross.

Brian William Tobin, 62, gassed himself in his car on April 18, 1996, just hours after he was interviewed by Wood royal commission investigators probing connected child-sex allegations.

One of Tobin's alleged child victims committed suicide in the Riverina in southern NSW two years ago.

At least eight people committed suicide after being named at the 2½-year royal commission into police corruption, which ended in February last year.

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