

# Curious Campbelltown - Murder and Mayhem

## Andrew Allen talks with Amanda Howard

00:00:00 Listener Warning

The following episode of Curious Campbelltown contains discussions of historical murder, violence and missing persons. It is not recommended for younger listeners. Listener discretion is strongly advised.

00:00:14 Andrew

The producers of this podcast recognise the traditional owners of the land on which it's recorded. They pay respect to the Aboriginal elders, past, present and those emerging.

Welcome to Curious Campbelltown. Join us for a journey of discovery into our city's fascinating past. Amanda Howard is a true crime author, fiction writer, and violent crimes consultant who has written many, many books over the last well, fourteen years. I've had the pleasure of meeting her when she's visited Campbelltown libraries as a guest author and I find her writing enthralling and her knowledge of true crime astounding. So I'd like to welcome Amanda to Curious Campbelltown.

00:01:02 Amanda

Hey, Andrew, it's good to be here. It's fun in this soundproof room. We've never been here before.

00:01:06 Andrew

It's pretty fancy isn't it? We're very proud of our room. We're gonna look today, Amanda, at some crimes connected to Campbelltown. I thought we'd just very briefly at the start have a bit of a chat about where you're up to with your writing. Are you writing at the moment? What have you got on the go?

Yes. And my dad really would wish that I would finish them because he keeps doing some editing for me and wants me to be more gory so I think I come from a good family there. Yes, I've got volume two of Killer Australia coming, volume two of Killer Minds coming. And there is another fiction on its way too. So I've got a lot going in books, but I've also got the podcast I do as well, so that's a lot of work, lot writing as well each week, so...

00:01:49 Andrew

First thing that comes to mind is how do you find the time. I know you work full time as well.

00:01:54 Amanda

I gave up sleeping in about 1978 I think.

Yeah, no I like to do things I'm not one of those people that can just sit down and do nothing. So I usually run myself until I stop, basically. So yeah, I write, I work full time. I've gotten two kids and a lots of pets. Just keep going.

00:02:13 Andrew

And you've had a break, really, have you?

00:02:15 Amanda

Oh God no.

00:02:17 Andrew

I was gonna ask you what criminal fascinated you the most over the years - the one that stands out.

00:02:22 Amanda

Well, I'm. I'm known mostly for Ivan, obviously, especially when I can see his house from my house. So that's a bit of a daily thing for me, but it actually all come from the granny killer.

So that was in 1989 and we'd start to learn about things like FBI and profiling and things like that and Silence of the Lambs come out and, you know, I'm expecting all these horrible monsters. And then the granny killer got caught and he was just like a 50 year old man with, with two kids and a wife. He didn't look like what we expected a monster to be. So I found that really fascinating. And so then from there, I sort of went into doing my criminology degree, my masters and all of that that I've done over the years. And I've just found that each one has something different, you know.

00:03:05

We expect that we can profile these types of criminals, but in in actual fact we're all different. You know there are patterns and themes that we go along but it really comes down to who that person is. So you know Ivan is different because of the way he killed and the possibility of the second killer and things like that.

And there's a whole lot of stuff there that, that I'm sure we'll get into. But you know, when I think of killers, there's some out there that people haven't even heard of, like David Parker Ray, who was a killer in Elephant Butte in the US and they could never catch him for any of his crimes. But he would play this tape recording to his victims before he killed them, apparently. Basically went through what he was going to do to them, and it's one of the only times I've ever had a nightmare in all of these years of talking and dealing with these killers that the things he said he was going to do, it's like the psychological terror of that would have just been incredible when they actually found his "toy box" as, as you called this great big torture chamber that they had. One of the FBI agents that went in there and had to catalogue everything and took her own life soon after that.

It was that horrific what was in this room and I just no one has heard of him you know.

00:04:19 Andrew

I haven't heard of him. Has there been anything written much about him?

00:04:23 Amanda

There is every so often, but because he had a heart attack, quote, unquote on the way to his questioning over 60 possible serial killer victims, so it's quite interesting that we never actually got to that point.

So did he take some poison or something? No one knows, but he never answered to his crimes.

00:04:41 Andrew

And yet there's other killers like I guess Jeffrey Dahmer, Fred West just names that come straight to mind that you know, there's been so much written about. So yeah.

00:04:49 Amanda

Yeah. Oh Fred West I love that case. I know that's a horrible term to use.

But the most amazing part about the West case is that they had started to dig for one of his children that they believed he'd killed and they found some bones. And so they went and interviewed him and said Fred - like confess we've found some leg bones and he goes. Yeah, yeah. I've killed my daughter. Yeah. She she's there under the courtyard or whatever it was. And they said that's great, but there's three leg bones and that's how it opened. And then from there he confessed to multiple and his confession it's in a book called an Evil Love. It's fantastic.

Because, it goes from his point of view as well as his support person who is involved as well and his lawyer and people like that just sort of linking into this and how simplistic he thought about what he was doing.

But the rest of us are so fascinated by the way that he just had this life and they killed for 25 years and no one even had any idea that it was happening.

00:05:46 Andrew

And he like, John Glover, wasn't your( if there is a stereotype serial killer) I mean. He didn't look like one, did he?

00:05:54 Amanda

No, no, just looked like. You know the local guy that you would come and get some carpentry done and stuff like that, and that's what he would do. You know but he would pick up these hitchhikers or just girls that's sort of what I said, you know, I'm after a job and he goes, well, you can come babysit my kids and just, you know, these people get trusted. I mean David Burney in in Perth. I spent many, many years talking to David and he would say that no one is going to question when it's a couple in the car because I think you know man by himself. Yeah. You know, I'm not gonna go there, but with his de facto wife there, people would get into the car and they and they felt safe until they weren't.

00:06:33 Andrew

Like Ian Brady and my Myra Hindley they were the same sort of thing.

00:06:35 Amanda

Yeah, exactly. And. everyone said that Ian Brady was highly intelligent and so I'm like, OK, I need to talk to this guy. I need to, you know, interview him and everything. And I was so disappointed. It was all facade. It's all just.

00:06:50 Andrew

Really right.

00:06:51 Amanda

Yeah, he just.

00:06:52 Amanda

Knew some keywords and I read Mein Kampf and stuff like that. Yeah. Yeah, it was very disappointing.

00:06:59 Andrew

And also just a dreadful individual.

00:07:00 Amanda

All of them are.

00:07:02 Andrew

They all are. Yeah.

OK, let's get into some Campbelltown crimes or criminals that have connections to Campbelltown. One that's currently in the news at the moment right now is Paul Denya Now, he was born in Campbelltown I think. He was raised. And spent like, well, primary school. Yeah, yeah.

00:07:19 Amanda

Yeah, he was his primary. His family is English and his father owned one of the local fast food restaurants. I won't name them just in case. They don't want that.

And so yeah, I have spent several years talking to Paul as well. So there's the whole thing about him being Paul or Paula, the gender transition that he was doing was just something to do that's his words.

He just sort of thought well, I'll try that to see if I can get into a female prison and things like that. It wasn't anything serious. He's just he's asexual and.

00:07:48 Andrew

OK.

00:07:50 Amanda

The Paula was just a thing and press jumped on it. Yeah, yeah. But he was from out in Campbelltown and we were similar ages. So I said we probably saw each other like sports carnivals and things like that.

And then he moved to Melbourne, where they ended up that he ended up with some friends and he had an issue with one of the girls who lived down the road from him. And there was whole big fights that happened and everything and he decided to take out his anger on three young people that he just sort of come across.

00:08:17 Amanda

I mean well, one of them was a young mum that had like, you know, a days old baby at home and she'd popped out to grab some bread and milk or something. And he jumped in the back of her car. But yeah, he is he's a Campbelltown boy.

00:08:28 Andrew

Do you know whereabouts in Campbelltown he lived? Not that you necessarily have to say it...

00:08:33 Amanda

But it was around the Leumeah I think it was. In one of the new housing government housing areas around there, so.

00:08:41 Amanda

I actually have the address and it's not an address that's still around, but it was, I think one of those developments that have now long gone.

00:08:48 Andrew

When you spoke to him, did he give you the chills or was he ordinary to speak to?

00:08:55 Amanda

If he was not off his head on drugs might have helped, but he was very, very high when I spoke to him, so much so that he was quite incoherent to get things out of him because he was on a programme to kick other drugs that he'd started once he was in prison and things like that, he was a bit airy fairy.

He liked it to talk about astral projection and astrology and all things like that. So that was sort of a focus he had. He was very artistic. I've got a whole stack of jewellery and things that he has made over the years – runes. And things like that. Well, but yeah, he's very slow, dull talking, so we don't talk anymore because he had a groupie who decided that he shouldn't talk to me anymore.

And so she come with threats and all of that sort of stuff, which is part of the game so.

00:09:44 Andrew

Yeah. What are your feelings about him being given a parole, you think that's a good idea?

00:09:52 Amanda

No, no, no. He has a sense of justice that he wants to see, and I think it would just take one thing to send him off again. So I don't think he's someone who is safe to be you know, just put on to an ankle bracelet or something. It's not going to work. It's not going to work. He will crack, there's no doubt about that. He's just playing the game. So many of them do that they say the right things. So then people go, Oh well, have done the right thing. You know, they find God and all of this sort of stuff. And so he's.

00:10:22 Amanda

Been saying, you know, I've been doing this course and that course and you know, I'm speaking to councillors and I have someone who comes and sees me from the church and all of this is all just lip service. They just ticking the boxes.

00:10:33 Andrew

Yep, from what I read about him, I think he some of the things I read talk about the reasons why he might have been like he was like, I think he fell off a table when he was a young boy. Do you reckon that was the case?

00:10:47 Andrew

Or do you reckon he was just born bad?

00:10:51 Amanda

I think what we have is a perfect storm that. Happens, you know. Because there's plenty of people that have head injuries that don't go on to become serial killers and things like that and some that don't have head injuries and do become serial killers. Because I think what it comes down to is that you know  $a + b = c$ . So you know that he did have a head injury.

He's slightly delayed and I don't know if that was completely the drugs talking or what, but he's not like running forward. There's no sort of chaos happening. It's very slow. And so he then to add to that his gender identification, which he was confused about and now he he's come out as gay and all of that sort of stuff. So he's asexual to him it's about how all of that fits together and if they don't like how it fits together, they act out.

And so that's what he had done. These were just young females in the wrong place at the wrong time. And he decided that they were going to be the ones that got his wrath basically.

00:11:47 Andrew

Does someone like him... I've often wondered... does someone like him suffer in gaol like I know? Paedophiles, do certain criminals do cop it in gaol, but someone like him? Would he?

00:11:58 Amanda

He's never actually mentioned it, but he sort of kept his head down a bit and just sort of did what he had to do to keep out of trouble. He's not one that goes into the communal areas and he would just stay in his cell and do art a lot of them though. David Bernie in Perth, he got bashed a lot and until the end, he was still getting bashed.

00:12:14 Andrew

Right. Okay.

00:12:17 Amanda

So you know, a lot of them do go through that. I mean, Daniel Morecombe's killer, he's been severely burnt. He's really badly damaged. So there, there is prison justice

00:12:25 Andrew

OK, I'd like to get onto. Helen Moore. Helen Patricia Moore. This happened in the late 1970s and I think it was early 1980s from memory for Campbelltown can you tell me a little bit about.

00:12:42 Amanda

Well, she yeah. She was 17/18 years old, and she was from Claymore, and according to her she started to kill because she saw her younger brother die that he'd fallen down the steps and was killed. The fact that she might have done that was sort of a bit sort of up in the air, they weren't sure but she claimed that after seeing that happen, all the children that she would baby sit up and down that street and a few other streets around she would smother them. So these, you know, 2 year old or 12 month old young babies that people were allowing her to babysit.

One of them ended up he was blind and paraplegic because she had tried to kill him, but he actually survived. There was a 12 month old that survived as well, but there was 3 killings and two attempted that she went down for and she was only in prison for like 20 years and she's out.

00:13:43 Andrew

Yeah, does-

00:13:44 Amanda

So she'd be like 60 now.

00:13:46 Andrew

Yeah, yeah. So I suppose she would. Do you know what sort of a life she's leading now.

00:13:50 Amanda

Well, she had a child of her own. I know that for sure, but that's all I've been able to find out. I knew someone who went to school with her. So there was people who sort of knew enough to sort of put some pieces together. But she was given a new name and new area and she's a mum.

00:14:06 Andrew

Yeah, it'd be interesting to know what she thinks now about what she did. I guess she was only very young, not excusing it, but she was young. Yeah, it's I find it fascinating.

00:14:19 Amanda

It is, it is and these sorts of people that do get out, I mean in England there's a killer called Mary Belle and she was 8 when she killed two boys and she was let out for a while and then sort of went back in and then and she's been free and she's a mum probably a grandma by now that killed James Bulger in England, one of them has gone good. He's found his life and he was the boy in charge side of thing. But the other boy is in out of gaol for child sex crimes and things like that as well.

So he's gone back in. So was he as the person who was sort of exposed to this and he hadn't been the one to instigate the torture on the 10 year old boy, did that mess him up, that it wasn't going to stop him ever again, that he was going to sort of have to live that and be tortured by it, that it sort of messed him up, especially when the other boy's now fine – well apparently.

00:15:18 Andrew

Ivan Milat, now I have to- he's definitely got a connection to Campbelltown.

00:15:23 Amanda

Oh yes, he does.

00:15:24 Andrew

I guess I wanted to ask you what he was like to. You had quite a bit to do with him.

00:15:31 Amanda

I'm not going to say I'm a grammar Nazi when I write, but I, but I am, and his writing was so disjointed.

00:15:38 Amanda

I know that he only had probably a year six education like he didn't really go through high school. As soon as he could grow vegetables and stuff he was on the farm at Glenfield but he's slow as well. I'm dying to find that killer that's really, really smart and challenges me. And I haven't found them yet. Ted Kaczynski won't talk to me, no matter how much I've tried, because he's very smart. But Ivan is very simple. But he's he was someone you could get him onto a topic and he would go for hours and hours and hours and hours and hours. He once sent me forty pages about Rd works because they'd done some Rd works along I'm going to say Dobell Rd but I'm wrong and the roads are blistered up and become like volcanoes on the side of the road and it was terrible.

00:16:26 Amanda

I sent him photos and said like this is a brand new road. What's happened and he told me that they hadn't done this and they hadn't graded this way and he went into all these details, you know, that should have had a gutter there and it's too high here. Just. Yes, I would just pick things to ask him and he would go off. He had a huge thing about His Breville. You know like to make toasted sandwiches. They would take that off him if he was bad and then he would sulk, and then he'd write to like the Herald and tell them that they stole his sandwich maker and things like that.

We did have a conversation about him cutting off another finger.

Which is probably not something I should encourage someone to do. But I said, look, it worked last time, you know, because he had tried the hunger strikes and that had horrible effects on his health. He may have lasted a bit longer if he hadn't done that cause one point he'd lost like 35 kilos or something?

00:17:18 Andrew

Yeah, I remember seeing him. Yeah, gaunt, and yeah.

00:17:21 Amanda

Yeah. So and then his shoulder was horrible for years as well and swallowing staples didn't help either, but all of his mail I got from him always had staples in them and I don't understand that, yes, like were they stapling it for him? Or was he stapling them? That's just something I didn't ever ask, but it just always...was just weird.

00:17:42 Andrew

And he was in total isolation, pretty much, wasn't he?

00:17:45 Amanda

Yes and no. He could go out if he wanted to, but not far because Super Max is like this this big sort of super prison.

00:17:52 Amanda

But there was issues that was actually going on that there was like the Skaf brothers that that they were in there as well and they were converting people to Islam, so much so that the HDU unit they had there where Mark Valera was who was serial killer down at the gong.

They had to move those guys out so then they could have just an Islamic wing and everyone else to stop because they were concerned about gangs being created and issues going on there. But he could come out - you know showers and stuff like that. So it wasn't like concreted in.

00:18:24 Andrew

Another question that I know gets asked a lot in your opinion, did he act alone?

00:18:29 Amanda

No, a hundred percent no.

00:18:30 Andrew

100%?

00:18:31 Amanda

100% no, there is no way that you can have two victims under your control and holding a gun and a knife at the same time. It doesn't happen.

00:18:39 Andrew

Despite what Clive Small...

00:18:40 Amanda

Yeah, despite what Clive Small says. Yeah, it's not possible. It's so much so that I had asked Ivan about things like that and he goes well, according to the court transcript. I was standing there having a cup of tea while someone else was raping one of the victims. Now they never said they were sexually assaulted, and for him to say that it's like, oh, hang on a sec. You just gave up something just there, but he is very much into the issues regarding cigarette butts and things of that because he was like non-drinker non/Non-smoker. So which is interesting for the Tollgate girls which we can discuss as well. But Ivan, I don't even think he was the main guy. I think that he tried to do Paul Onions by himself and stuffed up.

00:19:24 Andrew



OK.

00:19:25 Amanda

Because that's the only thing they have is that we had Paul Onions as the only guy who escaped that we know of and he said no, it was one guy. However, the identification that Paul onions gave is not of Ivan Milat, that it's someone bigger, taller. So I think that Ivan was just. Yeah, I'm gonna try this out. I think it's wasn't I'm not gonna say exactly the same two people each time, but I think there was a a mix in there and a bit of partying and fun being had and I don't think seven victims is where we can stop. I think there's plenty, plenty more out there.

00:19:57 Andrew

Do you? That's yeah. OK.

00:20:00 Amanda

I have a big database of people who have gone hitchhiking and things like that, and who have never been found again. Some people who have just walked out of their homes with their bags. Some of them I'm just going down the street. Not all of them are going to be linked to that case, but there are so many other pockets around of other cases that, you know, he's not the only one that has done this. And this is just one serial Killer. But I'm pretty sure we have several more easily.

00:20:22 Andrew

Umm, the one in in the Blue Mountains. Oberon, that kind of area. That was pretty overwhelming.

00:20:29 Amanda

Yeah, yeah, that one out Bathurst way, yeah, there's insider information on, on that case that they have a prime suspect in that case, but they just can't get him because he knows it too well.

00:20:40 Andrew

OK, OK.

00:20:42 Amanda

But I mean, Ivan was often brought in about the two girls that disappeared from the Tollgate Hotel in Parramatta. Late 80's I think I actually ever have notes here on them, but Ivan went, went to the in inquest and all of that and they spoke about who they were seen with and it was a guy who looked like Ivan but was a smoker and a drinker. Well, there's other people with that same surname that are smokers and drinkers. And Ivan said we need to look further beyond him. But it's right there. So he liked to do this that double speak often. So it's about not going oh blah blah blah blah or hello whatever it's about listening to what he has to say and reading between those lines cause he like to be cryptic. He sent me some things sometime one time in French – why, I don't know. But it's in French, so I had to have someone else translate his poor French into English for me and from his poor English, into French into English kind of thing. But he would often try and do that and send out secret things like that. But it was all just a bit of a fancy game

00:21:44 Andrew

And it was all kind of related to the power thing, too. Was it?

00:21:46 Amanda

Ohh, absolutely. And he loved to quote things on Bob Carr. Ohh he used to address his envelopes from Carr's Castle. Things like that It's like he was always going on with all these convoluted theories that he had so.

00:22:04 Andrew

OK, alright.

00:22:05 Amanda

He was never dull, though.

00:22:10 Andrew

Yeah, let's go a bit historical, Amanda - a case that interested me that I kind of started to write about it happened in 1849 in Campbelltown, a case that I've kind of called the Richardson-Lack murder. Do you know much about it?

00:22:21 Amanda

Well you sent me down a rabbit hole? It's been fascinating. I love. I love doing things like that. So yeah, it is an interesting case. And I'm surprised it's not more well-known because it was huge at the time.

00:22:33 Andrew

That's what amazed me myself. Cause something like you know what happened? Three people were murdered, another one was severely maimed. I couldn't believe that the word wasn't out there myself, and when I came across. I was amazed.

00:22:46 Amanda

Yeah, I mean and the fact that he went to the watch house covered in blood and like knock on the door and they said who's there and he goes well, I'm now a prisoner. They open the door and there he is standing in blood and so they went rushing to his house to find that he'd killed his wife and his stepdaughter and one of the children with an axe like to their face and their necks. Wow.

00:23:11 Andrew

Yeah. And there was supposed to have been a man that was inside that I think he saw leave the house too and there was debate about whether he was there too.

00:23:19 Amanda

Well, it was like a three AM I don't know why someone would be in heading in at 3:00 AM for him to sort of go in roaring and screaming and axe them in their beds so. It's, amazing. Once you go down and look through all of this stuff that we now have access to that we didn't... You know, I used to go into Sydney, into the University Library and go through microfiche and everything like we used to because we're that old, you know, and you couldn't catalogue this stuff. But now we can sort of look and, you know, and I go through all these weird and wonderful cases, like there was one actually at Blairmount where a mum killed her. Her two older children like fifteen, ten, fifteen around that age and it's like, you know, this massively mental health issue that had come up and.

00:24:07 Amanda

How the schools in the area dealt with it because you know these kids were well known and things like that.

It's been happening like, I mean, the Richardson and Lack was in 1849, you know, and it's been happening all this time that these violent acts that people do within the family unit and it's there, but it's not, you know, so this is why I love that the thing that you do.

00:24:27 Andrew

Yeah, yeah. There's been a couple more that I've unearthed too... There was one that wasn't a murder, but was almost was. Kershler, I think was the name, Thomas Kershler and that's also a fascinating case as well. Luckily, the girl survived, but it could have been far worse.

But yeah I love going through trove especially and finding all these things. And I'm sure you can relate to that.

00:24:48 Amanda

Ohh yes ohh I've got folders. Why do we need to print it? Well, it's there forever. But it's not. No, I'm like that tactile responsive. Going through those pages like it was on microfiche still.

00:25:00 Andrew

Yeah, I was proud the other day we put a purple bench there on the site of the Richardson-Lack murder, where the cottage was in support of domestic violence. So I was really proud to have that done.

00:25:07 Amanda

I did see that. Well done, well done. Because I mean, we have a big focus in this area on DV because there is a high rate of it and you know and it has been going on for this long and places like ED at Campbelltown hospital has people that are specialised in this, you know that we can ask, are you OK to go home, you know.

00:25:33 Amanda

If not, you don't have to. You know, we can put you in touch with people, and we have specialists and things like this highlight that this is something we haven't been able to stop, but we are now realising that we can by doing things like this and the purple bench.

00:25:49 Andrew

Any other local murders that people may not know about around the area? Can you...historical or not necessarily that historical?

00:25:58 Amanda

Ohh well, I've bought you. I've bought notes, you know I have so I mean we can go through a few because I mean, there's some interesting things like there was at Wedderburn tip a man's body was found because his wife that was a bar maid and her husband and her boyfriend took an axe to him in June 75 actually and killed Sydney Lang and buried him at Wedderburn tip, so they actually had to go out there and dig. So the fact that the boyfriend worked at the tip is a help. He was easily accessible to actual dump the victim there, but yeah, it's just.

00:26:29 Andrew

OK.

00:26:31 Amanda

Its crazy things like this that we hit and that was an axe attacker too. Like we can go back to John Lynch who was like, you know, the Berrima Axe Killer.

But he was around here as well and everything. And I've always wondered. And Andrew, you might know or might be able to find out - one of the surnames of the Lynch victims was Kearns. And I wonder if that's where Kearns suburb come from it because that was such a famous I don't know. I mean, we're a town that celebrates a ghost every year.

00:27:00 Andrew

Possibly I can. I can do a bit of research. I just can't think off the top of my head why Kearns was named Kearns. But I can. I can investigate that, yeah.

00:27:08 Amanda

It's one thing that's sort of stuck with me. What else have we got?

00:27:12 Andrew

Can I tell you a little story about John Lynch, my great, great great grandfather, Patrick Heffernan spent one or John Lynch spent one night at Patrick Heffernan house he was looking for work or something like and obviously it turned out OK, otherwise I wouldn't be here today. So. So, yeah. So luckily, luckily, Lynch left Patrick alone. And I'm here to talk to you today.

00:27:42 Amanda

It's weird how there is links, especially in Campbelltown that we do have these links around. And those of us that have sort of lived here forever. It's interesting to see how things intertwine like that, you know, and it's like I can see Ivan's house that I probably played sports with Paul Denya. We have things like that that happen all over but I mean it. Campbelltown has a very bloody history and I've been asked before like why do I do serial killers and things like that? I come from the town in Australia. We have a celebration every year about a murder. People go, really, I said. Fisher's Ghost. It's about murder what we're celebrating, I mean it's more about the farcical issues of the ghost and everything, but people go. Oh yeah. You're right, aren't you.

00:28:24 Andrew

I find it fascinating. I think it's hilarious. I love the fact that we're known for a ghost. Some people don't like it. Some people are...

00:28:30 Amanda

Oh really

00:28:32 Andrew

Yeah. Some people are sort of negative about it, but I think it's great.

00:28:40 Amanda

Well, I mean, Charles Dickens apparently wrote about it, so you know. He was a famous ghost. However, I've never been able to find anything that proves that the ghost part happened because I know that in in the court case, they were told don't talk about anything that's not evidence. That's what I've heard.

00:28:52 Andrew

Yeah, yeah, I guess we are just relying on John Farley's story? He went to his grave saying that he did definitely see it. So he stuck to his stuck to his story. But yeah, we are and we don't really know, do we?

00:29:07 Amanda

But it's wonderful. I'm sure, I'm sure somewhere, someone is going to find the absolute piece of paper that that sort of says. This is it. But I think it's getting years and years. But I'm trying to put a thousand thoughts together. I think it's interesting that this is what we all have this connection to and the fact that we don't know where he's buried. Though that may change this afternoon, but the fact that this case I mean every time I read about the ghost and the trackers and Farley and everyone there's more I find, like, apparently Farley, it's Farley?

00:29:45 Andrew

Yeah it's Farley.

00:29:48 Amanda

He ended up with a fever and was sick for two weeks because of it.

00:29:50 Amanda

So there's things I find - that's new but I just keep digging.

00:29:54 Andrew

Yeah, well, I'm. I'm still digging. I might find something one day  
Today we were. I was fascinated to only last week get a photograph of Fred Fisher's sister.

00:29:50 Amanda

Wow.

00:30:10 Andrew

It's the first time, you know, we've seen a photograph of anyone from his family.  
And it was just fascinating to see what she looked like. And it may sort of give a little bit of an indication of what Fred looked like too. So that was a bit of a thrill to see that.

00:30:20 Amanda

Wow, that's amazing.

00:30:21 Andrew

Yeah, anyone else you've come across apart from the Wedderburn one?

00:30:29 Amanda

Well, at Glenfield Park Special School, a serial killer ended up wounding 3 people, so they had overnight students as well, and they were like especially abled children. And they had slept through a man coming into the house, into the residence about 3:00 AM and with an axe again and a knife there this time, and a hammer, actually he rounded up three of the nurses that were on campus. He told two of them to strip and when they said no, he stabbed the one standing beside him in the throat. And said now you will. And so he made them strip completely naked. Then he had them do acts on each other and on him. And then he stabbed them to death as well.

So and then when the alarm was raised, because someone turned up on the property and the nurse that had been stabbed just end of the throat was alive, hanging on.  
But she was like, and she did survive, and they realised then that, Oh my God, what's happened to her... the kids and everything - the kids had slept through it, so they had not known anything they didn't see the carnage apparently. It was blood splatter and gore.

They said there were bits everywhere and then they found that a farmer one kilometre away had also been stabbed to death and was linked. And then once they arrested the guy who was Sam Boyd, they found that he had actually killed someone else about six months earlier, so he has four victims, so he's a serial killer.

00:31:52 Andrew

OK, so what happened? What became of him? What...

00:31:55 Amanda

Well, in 82. So I'm assuming if he's still alive, he's probably in gaol. So I found that one a couple of days ago, or probably about two weeks ago now, but he's on my To Do List. I gotta find him because that's a serial killer now that we don't much about. But you know, he killed 3IN in one night and one a couple of months earlier in violent, violent attacks and obviously they understand that the reason that he killed those females was, you know, it was sex and power and everything. But why he killed the farmer, they have no idea. So they don't know if he disturbed him or something, but yeah, so it's interesting.

00:32:29 Andrew

Oh, that's horrendous. I haven't heard of that one.

00:32:33 Amanda

Yeah. So that was a September 82 and April 83. So that's another one. For us to have a look at... what else have I got in my paperwork? Let's see what else I got.

00:32:42 Amanda

I got lots of cases. And then there's lots of people that have disappeared apparently from this area as well so.

00:32:49 Andrew

Yep. So is any that you want to talk about, anything, I know one myself, but I'll let you let you talk.

00:32:55 Amanda

Well, Amber Hague is one that's been in the press the last 12 months. She apparently was dropped off at Campbelltown Station to go and see her father, who was dying in Mount Druitt Hospital. I don't know why you catch a train from Campbelltown to Mount Drill, but I'm sure back then they probably did. The people that she was living with at the time have been arrested as suspected of killing her, especially when they found her that her baby that stayed with them was actually fathered by the husband.

So, this 19 year old girl was staying with this couple and yeah. And so he was the dad of her baby.

00:33:27 Amanda

He has also previously been arrested, but no court case because the charges fell through of sexually assaulting 2 teenage girls and for the murder of a second victim, so possible serial killer there. But it is waiting to go in front of the courts.

They have arrested this couple a few times, but they've been in gaol now, I think for the last 12 months or so but that's an interesting case because in all likelihood, she never came to Campbelltown train station, but that's where it sort of goes from purely because that's where they said that she was. And so that's what they have to go with.

00:34:02 Andrew

OK. Any others?

00:34:05 Amanda

Well, there's Ian Hollis, who went to a school. I did. So he disappeared in '86 and he was 16 years old. Apparently he had a fight with his girlfriend, stormed off, never been seen again. So his sister is very active, especially on Facebook and in crime circles and things. So she always keeps his case up there. But there's been nothing, nothing.

00:34:24 Andrew

Well, that's so sad.

00:34:25 Amanda

16 year old boy I just couldn't imagine. Debbie Ashby is in another one from '86. She was from Leumeah and she's not been seen since, so I see her photo often.

00:34:37 Andrew

Yeah, I've heard of that. I've heard it Debbie Ashby

00:34:38 Amanda

And there's probably others that I can think of I mean Carmen Verheyden was a local one. She was last seen at the Crossroads Hotel. And she hasn't been seen since. She was actually a possible victim of Ivan for a while there. But there's thoughts now that she got in with some guys who liked to party and went that way rather than Ivan. But you know, Paul Onions was picked up just new there, so...

00:35:05 Andrew

There's one that I am always fascinated by. I'm not sure if you've heard about it, but this is Steve Roach. Steve Roach was a local artist/photographer.

00:35:14 Amanda

Yes. Yep, Yep.

00:35:14 Andrew

Quite, yeah. Quite prolific artist and extremely talented. He went missing in Ingleburn in 1992. I think it was or 1982 maybe and he went missing and his car went missing. His Datsun that he drove around so it's fascinating that the car as well.

00:35:28 Amanda

Yeah, yeah. I have access to things that I can look up and I often see if anyone has turned up with these names and I just sort of look around and see if there's something similar, you know, Steve Roach, Steven Roach you know, of course if you type in Steve Roach, you get that footballer so...

00:35:47 Andrew

Yeah, that's right. That's right.

00:35:50 Amanda

Which can make it hard. But it's interesting. There's so many cases like, I have this big database and my NSW file is I think seven to eight hundred people long, just those that some have been found - some haven't been found but you know they all are open.

You know, so you know, and there's cases that keep turning up. And I've done a couple of police ones recently where kids have shot through and it's like, what can we do to find them and what I have access to, I can actually see if they've been in hospital ambulances and things like that, just to see if they've turned up and just haven't told the right people but you know it's not knowing what's happened. It must be just horrifying. And you know, like Ian, Ian's sister's always out there, you know, we often see them on Facebook. You know these kids have shot through. Has anyone seen them? We often find them. But you know, there are those that never found, you know, and you look at the vast landscape of Australia and they really could be anywhere.

00:36:54 Andrew

Hmm. Yeah, that's. I was just going to ask you, has there ever been a case that you remember where...like a good news story where they have been found like missing for years.

00:37:01 Amanda

Ohh not for years and years and years I think. I think you know after a certain time you sort of have to go with that thought that they aren't still alive. But you know you have to hold out that hope until you know. You just hope that they decided to up and go rather than die or get taken, things like that but there are these patches of cases in Newcastle there's a whole group of young girls from you know like the late 80s to about '93. It's like, you know, they're all sort of similar ages similar, you know, circumstances and you start to think, they couldn't have all just sort of said no I'm gonna run away now, you know.

00:37:43 Andrew

Yeah, occasionally you get one like, you know, there's a couple overseas I remember, like Austria and the case of I can't think of the name now. There's one in Austria. One in...

00:37:53 Amanda

The Fritzel case. Yeah, to think that he that she was trapped in the family basement for 25 years in an area that wasn't even tall enough for her to stand up in and so her children were born because she had six or seven children to her father. They never stood up because the basement that he had was you know was five foot tall or something?

And they lived in that lived in that darkness, wondering if one day he's going to lock that door and he's gonna, you know, have a car accident or die, and no one's gonna know they're there. No one's going to find them. There's a cases that we hear about across the world we hear about... there was a couple I was going through the other day where a woman, her house just become overrun, you know, mail was piling up and everything. People went into the house can't find, don't know where she was the bank for foreclosed on the house and all of that, and then about five years after that, the people that bought the House pulled down a wall and she'd actually fallen through the ceiling and down into the wall cavity. And it's been like that for like 5 years.

00:38:54 Andrew

Right

00:38:55 Amanda

Just no one would have heard her calling anything and so you sometimes wonder if there's people in the walls, you know it's strange to think you get stuck in chimneys and you know there's people that get found sometimes in very different ways, which actually makes me think of a story - Snowtown we're gonna go all across the world. John Bunting.



He's the main killer that Snowtown the bank vault. And well, he was mates with the guy and used to live in Queensland. This friend of his said that one time he turned up and Bunting had put down concrete into their basement like he used it as a photo room or something. And they used to shoot at the concrete and Bungie would say, you know and I'm just, you know get my victims and stuff and Haha. And then later he realised that's the same John Bunting. and so this guy has sent me a whole set of maps and addresses and places to check and storm water drains and things like that in Queensland to see if there's people buried under peoples back rooms and things like that. And there was gardens that he'd built like a three A.M. he'd he decided to build a garden. And this guy goes, you know starts to think that there could be more than I think- they had 12 victims or something, he says. I think there could be more. I didn't realise it was him until the other day I saw something and realised ohh it looks like him, but with a beard. So it's like, you know, because I get lots of Facebook things and emails from people, especially people saying they got picked up by Ivan. I have a whole folder, just people going "I was hitchhiking got picked up by Ivan." If Ivan had picked up all these people he would have had time to kill people because I have hundreds and hundreds of them - like he did work guys. And he wasn't always in Sydney. Ah so many of them. So okay yep no worries. Yep. Lots like hundreds.

00:40:41 Andrew  
Oh. Yeah.

00:40:46 Amanda  
So some of them is like, yeah, OK, whatever. But every so often someone will say something. Go. Yeah, OK. I'll talk to you a bit longer. So, but yeah, it's always interesting. There's some interesting people out there.

00:40:57 Andrew  
Yep there is. Well, do you have enjoyed our chat? Have to do it again one day too.

00:41:04 Amanda  
There's a lot of chaos in my brain.

00:41:08 Andrew  
I'm sure there is. Yeah. Yeah. Thank you very much, Amanda for talking with me today and being part of Curious Campbelltown.

00:41:14 Amanda  
I love it. Love it.

00:41:15 Andrew  
Thanks a lot.

00:41:16 Amanda  
Thank you.

00:41:20 Andrew  
Thank you for listening to this episode of Curious Campbelltown. Thank you to Jacob Norman for supplying the music and to Claire mentioned Sam Stevenson for editing. I'm Andrew Allen and we hope you join us for our next episode of Curious Campbelltown.