



## ABC launches true crime collection

### *A 30-year-old mystery begins to unravel, on May 28th*

This year, the ABC is bringing audiences more gripping true crime stories, unraveling cold cases, missing persons mysteries and potential past injustices through a new suite of podcasts, documentaries and digital animation. A multiplatform true crime team will investigate historic, iconic, brutal and baffling cases across the country.

Audiences are enthralled by a well-told mystery. True crime stories hold up a mirror to injustice in our society and can have real-world outcomes, encouraging audiences to get involved in helping crack unsolved cases.

In 2017, the ABC's award-winning podcast *Trace*, prompted an influx of new information and significant leads in the 1980 cold-case murder of Melbourne mother Maria James.

Our descent into the nation's dark underworld starts with the ABC's new podcast *Unravel True Crime* and its first series titled *Blood on the Tracks*, a podcast and an accompanying two-part *Australian Story* TV special which will launch on Monday, 28 May, featuring bespoke digital content across Youtube and digital platforms.

*Unravel True Crime* and *Blood on the Tracks* follows journalist Allan Clarke's five-year investigation into the death of Mark Haines, a 17-year-old Gomerioi teenager whose body was found on the Tamworth train tracks in 1988. A rail worker discovers the body, but the scene doesn't seem to make sense. Despite the strange evidence found at the crime scene, the family feel like they're being ignored by police. The mystery is left to fester, causing division and suspicion in the town. Twenty-five years later, journalist Allan picks up the case, telling the story of a town divided, an investigation bungled, evidence lost, and critical leads never followed up.

It's the first part of a number of new ABC true crime stories, which will also include an animated digital series, TV documentaries and additional seasons of the *Unravel True Crime* podcast. The true crime collection was conceived within the ABC's Content Ideas Lab, which was launched in 2017 as part of the ABC's *Investing in Audiences* strategy to produce innovative content that connects with new audiences.

*"Creating distinctive and innovative content in ways that reach new audiences is exactly what the Content Ideas Lab is all about,"* said Angela Stengel, Head of the Content Ideas Lab.

*"The runaway success of Trace illustrated that there is an audience appetite for high-quality, true crime content. This is a great opportunity for the ABC to marry this fresh, multiplatform approach with trusted, quality journalism."*

The ABC is unrivaled in its commitment to distinctive and high-quality Australian content, delivering these in-depth stories and investigations, helping to solve crimes and shine a light on injustices across the country.

*Australian Story: Blood on the Tracks – Mondays 8pm, 28 May & 4 June on ABC and iview*

*Unravel True Crime – Episodes available weekly from Monday 28 May. Episode 0 is now available. Subscribe to Unravel True Crime on ABC listen or wherever you get your favourite podcasts.*

For more information visit [abc.net.au/truecrime](http://abc.net.au/truecrime)

#AustralianStory #UnravelTrueCrime

**ENDS**

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