

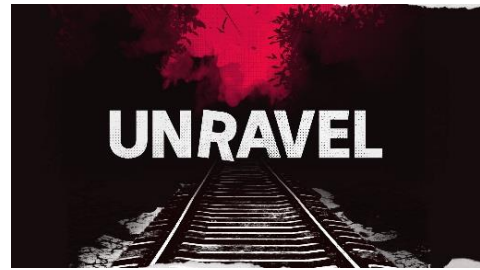


UNRAVEL

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

Unravel True Crime – episodes available weekly from Monday 28 May

ABC



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ABC podcast *Unravel True Crime*, together with a two-part television special *Australian Story: Blood on the Tracks*, follows journalist Allan Clarke through a five-year investigation into a 25-year-old unsolved crime.

The podcast series and Australian Story special take us back to 1988. Just outside of Tamworth in country New South Wales, a freight train hits someone lying on the tracks. But when a rail worker looks at the body, the scene doesn't seem to make sense. There is a towel under the head and hardly any blood. Why are the shoes on the body so clean when there is mud all around?

The tracks divide Tamworth in two. An Aboriginal community (nicknamed "Vegemite Village") on one side, a largely white population on the other. The boy on the tracks is Mark Haines, a 17-year-old Gomerioi teenager. Despite the strange evidence found at the scene of his death, the family feel like they're being ignored by police. An inquiry finds no answers and the mystery is left to fester, causing division and suspicion in the town.

Twenty-five years later, journalist Allan Clarke picks up the case. The more time he spends with Mark's family, the more he feels he's becoming a part of it. Alan tells a story of a town divided, an investigation bungled, evidence lost, and critical leads never followed up.

Allan's reporting sparks a resurgence of interest in the case that sees the file reopened, a review launched, a reward announced. During two trips to Tamworth our investigative team dives deeper. The thirty-year-old mystery finally begins to unravel.

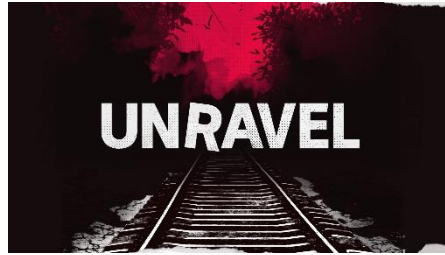


Allan Clarke

Allan Clarke is a proud Muruwuri and Gomeroi man. He has extensive experience as a current affairs reporter for radio, online and television.

Allan was senior reporter for SBS TV's flagship indigenous news and current affairs show *Living Black* and a presenter for NITV's *The Point*. He was the Indigenous Affairs reporter for BuzzFeed News and, prior to this, Western Sydney reporter for ABC NEWS.

Unravel True Crime and Australian Story: Blood on the Tracks follows reporter Allan through five years of investigation, as a case that has been unsolved for 30 years finally starts to unravel.



Unravel True Crime

Episode 1, The suspicious death of 17-year-old Mark Haines - starts 28 May

It's the summer of 1988. A train hits a person early in the morning on its way out of Tamworth. Straight away, something doesn't add up about the scene where the body is found. A rail worker notices strange inconsistency at the scene. If this was suicide, why is there so little blood?

The boy on the tracks is Mark Haines, a Gomerai teenager with friends on both sides of the tracks. We meet his uncle Don (Duck) Craigie, who has been tirelessly searching for answers since Mark's death. He suspects foul play.

We trace Mark's movements on the night before his death, as he hits the town on a big night out with a bunch of friends, dancing, drinking and having fun. Mark's friends and girlfriend say they left him in the early hours. Just after, a nearby resident hears voices on the street, what sounds like an argument, and a car driving dangerously.

But the next few hours remain a mystery. How did Mark end up on the tracks?

Unravel True Crime episodes are 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.

Credits:

Reporter & Presenter Allan Clarke

Senior Producer & Additional Reporting Suzanne Smith

Supervising Producer Tim Roxburgh

Producer & Researcher Emma Lancaster

Assistant Producer Ellen Leabeater

Composer & Sound Design Martin Peralta

Digital Content Editor Gina McKeon

Digital Producer Yale McGillivray

Executive Producer Ian Walker

For more information visit abc.net.au/truecrime

#UnravelTrueCrime



Australian Story: Blood on the Tracks

Episode 1 - Monday 28 May at 8pm on ABC and iview

Murder or misadventure? Thirty years ago, when the body of teenager Mark Haines was found on the train tracks near Tamworth, police quickly dismissed any idea of foul play. But after a five year investigation journalist Allan Clarke believes he may have finally found the truth as he reveals the lies, cover-ups and mistakes which marred the original investigation.

Episode 2 - Monday 4 June at 8pm on ABC and iview

As journalist Allan Clarke digs deeper into events on the night Mark Haines died he discovers more about his last few hours and becomes convinced that he was the victim of foul play. As he cracks the case wide open he is led to the man he believes is the killer.

Credits:

Camera Greg Nelson

Editor Andrew Cooke

Producers Rebecca Latham, Suzanne Smith, Allan Clarke

Research Allan Clarke, Suzanne Smith, Emma Lancaster

Supervising Producer Jennifer Feller

Executive Producer Caitlin Shea

Digital Producer Megan Mackander

Visit abc.net.au/truecrime

#AustralianStory

For more information on Unravel: True Crime and Australian Story: Blood on the Tracks, please contact ABC Marketing Communications Specialist, Safia van der Zwan, vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au, 02 8333 3846

