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AUDIENCES FLOCK TO TRACE PODCAST WITH NEW INFORMATION

Fresh leads give hope to victim's family at centre of Australia's top-rating podcast, Trace

The ABC's new true-crime podcast, [Trace](#) has prompted an influx of fresh information around the murder case of Maria James, which producers hope will bring justice for the victim and her family.

Maria James was stabbed 68 times in her Thornbury home – a crime that has gone unsolved for 37 years.

Following a public appeal from investigative reporter and *Trace* host, Rachael Brown, more than 50 separate tip-offs have been submitted to the official Trace inbox from residents of 1980s Thornbury and their relatives. Genuine eyewitness accounts have also been provided from individuals close to the crime scene or the Melbourne church that remains linked to the investigation.

Ahead of this week's release of *Trace* Episode 3, a bonus episode available today updates listeners on new developments gathered from listener tip-offs.

Thanks to a variety of voices with genuine theories and tip-offs, the *Trace* podcast team continues its investigation of fresh leads, which may uncover angles overlooked in the long-running cold case. Every verifiable lead is assessed as the possible missing puzzle piece that could open-up the cold case and provide answers to Maria James' sons, Mark and Adam James.

Host, Rachael Brown believes that it's this prospect that lies at the heart of *Trace*.

"From day one of this investigation, it has been important that *Trace* empowers the family of Maria James, and helps uncover leads in their fight to find her killer," says Brown. "The information we've received from listeners moves this goal closer. And this week, *Trace* also presents its own person of interest, someone who was never questioned at the time.

"On a broader note, *Trace* also offers a voice to victims of crime and those who've suffered abuse at the hands of the Catholic Church. The podcast affords the respect, consideration and anonymity required when confronting these difficult stories... An offering which is tricky or impossible to achieve through other genres. It is a powerful and serious reminder that *Trace* is telling the story of real people and has real-life implications to those connected to the events."

Do you have information? Email trace@abc.net.au.

[Listen to today's Trace Bonus Episode now. Trace Episode 3 available Wednesday 5 July.](#) Subscribe to *Trace* on the [ABC Radio app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you get your favourite podcasts.

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