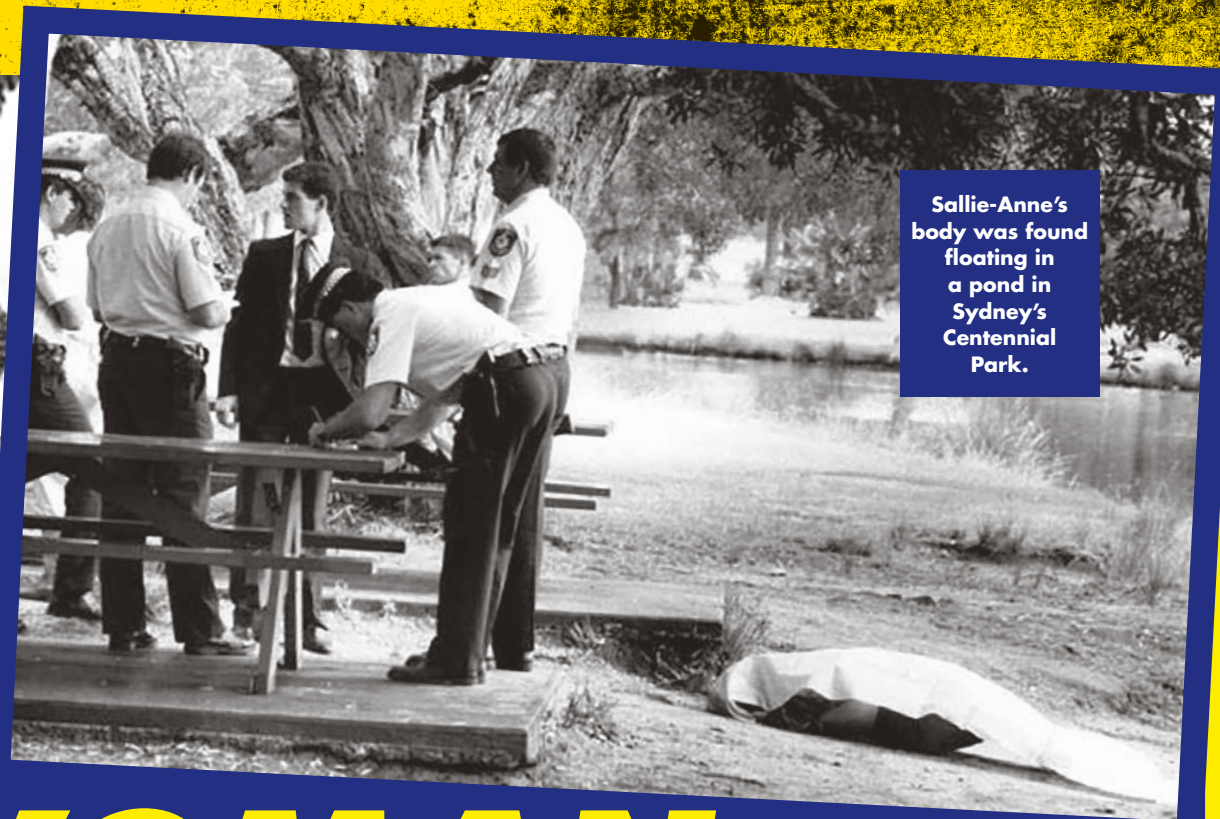


Sallie-Anne Huckstepp became the most significant whistleblower NSW had seen.



Sallie-Anne's body was found floating in a pond in Sydney's Centennial Park.

SALLIE-ANNE THE WOMAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

THE MURDER OF SALLIE-ANNE HUCKSTEPP REMAINS UNSOLVED 35 YEARS LATER

Some called what Sallie-Anne Huckstepp did a vindictive act of revenge.

Others branded it a brave fight for justice, while it was also considered a desperate bid for attention. There are even some today who believe Sallie-Anne, a Kings Cross prostitute and heroin addict, was a feminist hero.

What Sallie-Anne did back

in 1981 was blow the whistle on the corruption within the NSW Police Force.

Then, she entered into a dangerous game of playing on both sides of the law, as well as revelling in the media spotlight with her bombshell revelations.

In doing so, Sallie-Anne signed her own death warrant.

She was murdered on February 6, 1986, and was found floating in a pond in Sydney's Centennial Park. Sallie-Anne, 31, had been strangled and drowned. To this day, no-one has ever been held responsible for her murder.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Sallie-Anne's brutal killing.

John Dale, the author

of her biography *Huckstepp: A Dangerous Life*, believes the fascination with Sallie-Anne continues not only due to her unsolved murder, but also the complicated life she led.

"She was a woman of so many contradictions, and because of that, made such an impact in people's memories," says John.

"Here was this Jewish girl from a private school in one of

Not long after leaving school, Sallie-Anne began dabbling in drugs and then, to pay for her habit, started working as a prostitute.

She was forced to make regular pay-offs to local Vice Squad and Drug Squad detectives to stay out of prison. At age 19, she had a daughter, Sascha.

In 1981, Sallie-Anne began a relationship with noted

offered a very different version of what happened that day in a scathing set of allegations.

She claimed to Internal Affairs investigators that Lanfranchi had been executed in a set-up by Rogerson, who had also stolen a \$10,000 pay-off the crim was due to make. She also offered details of the pay-offs she had been making to police from her years as a sex worker.

When Sallie-Anne went public with her allegations on *60 Minutes*, it shook NSW Police to its core.

"She was the first person to alert the wider public about what was really happening and a lot of people admired her for it," says John.

But it also made her enemies and others wanted her silenced.

"I think she feared that

once the attention went off her, then she would be in real danger," says John.

Which is what happened in 1986, five years after her bombshell revelations, when she was killed. Her murder resulted in an inquest, which in 1991 found she had gone to the park to meet her drug dealer, Warren Richards, but the identity of her killer could not be determined.

During the inquest, she was called, "The most significant whistleblower NSW has ever known."

Ten years after her death, in 1996, notorious criminal Neddy Smith, in prison on other murder charges, was secretly recorded confessing to killing Sallie-Anne.

He was later charged and stood trial for the murder, and Sallie-Anne's body was

exhumed for DNA testing.

Even with a range of evidence against Smith, he was acquitted in 1999, and the case has remained cold ever since.

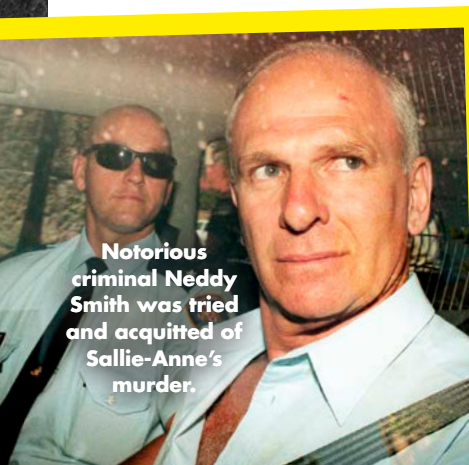
John interviewed Neddy in prison for *Huckstepp: A Dangerous Life*, and says the convicted killer, now aged 76 and suffering from Parkinson's disease, alleged Sallie-Anne had been harassing Roger Rogerson, and that she was left floating in the pond as a message to others who speak out.

These days, the disgraced Rogerson is in prison, convicted of the 2014 murder of student Jamie Gao.

"[Neddy] really hated Sallie-Anne, as she was causing such

grief," says John. "Neddy's the one who really knows what happened and I do wonder if he will on his deathbed make a confession, about who ordered it and who else was there. I think we already know all that, but justice has never been served – and I think Sallie-Anne deserves that."

By John Burfitt



Notorious criminal Neddy Smith was tried and acquitted of Sallie-Anne's murder.



John Dale, author of Sallie-Anne's biography, *Huckstepp: A Dangerous Life*.

