

# Bogle Chandler mystery unravelled

For more than 40 years the deaths of Dr Gilbert Bogle and Mrs Margaret Chandler have baffled police and been the fodder for much gossip and speculation. New scientific evidence, revealed in an explosive documentary, has revealed a plausible and likely cause of the deaths that have mystified police and scientists for more than four decades.

*Who Killed Dr Bogle & Mrs Chandler?* by Sydney film maker Peter Butt uses dramatic re-enactments and interviews with people close to the case to find an answer to one of the greatest unsolved cases in Australian crime history.

On New Year's morning 1963, two half-naked bodies were found in mysterious circumstances on the bank of Sydney's picturesque Lane Cove River.

The victims were Dr Gilbert Bogle, a brilliant CSIRO physicist who was married with four young children and Margaret Chandler, a former nurse and mother of two children who was married to Dr Bogle's scientific colleague, Geoffrey Chandler.

There were bizarre circumstances surrounding the deaths. The bodies had been covered after death, showing that someone was at the crime scene after the deaths. The autopsies failed to show any cause of death but did show signs of a rapidly acting poison.

The local police called on the assistance of the FBI and New

Scotland Yard. At the end of a long and controversial coronial inquest no cause of death, motive or killer could be identified.

Theories were abundant – had foreign spies killed Dr Bogle and Mrs Chandler because of the work he was conducting at the CSIRO? Did Geoffrey Chandler kill his wife and her lover in a jealous rage? Had the lovers been experimenting with illicit drugs? There were more than 1,000 theories on the police files.

Film maker Peter Butt grew up in Sydney and clearly remembers the media speculation that was dragged out on every anniversary. He grew up near the Lane Cove River and picnicked there with his family. The story fascinated him.

In the 1980s Peter began researching a feature film about nuclear engineer, Clifford Dalton. Dalton's wife claimed he was murdered in a Cold War conspiracy. His closest friend was Dr Gilbert Bogle. This rekindled Peter's interest in the lovers' deaths. When he uncovered an investigation into possible connections between Geoffrey Chandler and chemical weapons research he was intrigued. Peter tracked down Geoffrey Chandler to country NSW.

"He was very surprised to hear from me and reluctant to talk. I convinced him to give me an hour. That led to him spending four days at my home," says Peter Butt.

Geoffrey Chandler was convinced Peter Butt was serious about solving



the mystery that had plagued him and his children for decades and agreed to support his research and co-operate in the making of the documentary. Police also gave Peter Butt unprecedented access to their files.

Something as simple as a letter noting a 'rotten egg smell' at the crime scene and autopsy reports of the colour the victims' blood led to Peter Butt to looking at the possibility of hydrogen sulphide poisoning – a poison that can be as toxic as cyanide in the right quantities. The chief toxicologist from the 1960s was still alive and he agreed with Peter's theory.

*Who Killed Dr Bogle & Mrs Chandler?* is a fascinating documentary that finally answers one of the most asked questions of our lifetime...who killed Dr Bogle and Mrs Chandler?

The interviews with Geoffrey Chandler, police and scientists are interspersed with re-enactments by some of Australia's best actors in *Who Killed Dr Bogle & Mrs Chandler?* Ryhs Muldoon plays Dr Bogle with Octavia Barron-Martin as Mrs Chandler.

The documentary, which was screened on ABC-TV in September, has been released on DVD by Roadshow Entertainment. It is available now for \$29.95.

The Police Association Journal has five copies of the *Who Killed Dr Bogle & Mrs Chandler?* DVD to give away to members thanks to Roadshow Entertainment.

Just send an envelope to The Police Association Journal 'Bogle Chandler giveaway', PO Box 76, Carlton South, 3053. On the back of the envelope write your name, address and contact phone number. Entries must arrive by Friday, November 29. Good luck.