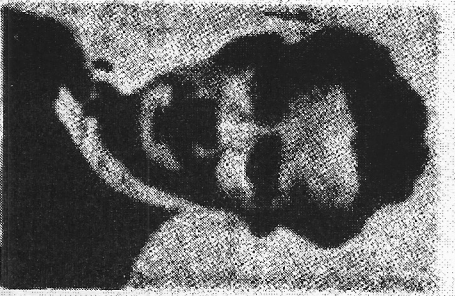


## MAN MISSING FROM SUNSHINE

Police are searching for Norman Hurley, 20, of 288 Hampshire rd, Sunshine, who left his home about 7.30pm on August 4, and has not been seen since.

When leaving home he said he was going to Newmarket to inspect a motor-truck.

His description is: 5ft 6 in, solid build, dark brown hair, brown eyes, jump in



NORMAN HURLEY

left leg. When last seen he was dressed in a navy blue suit, but no hat.

# MURDERED MAN IN NEAR RACECOURSE Robbed, Then Thrown Into Water Alive

The body of a youth was found in the Maribyrnong River behind the Hill at Flemington Racecourse today. A blood trail led to the bank.

His head had been battered, and he had been thrown into the water alive, a post-mortem examination revealed.

The victim was Norman Hurley, 19, of Melton, 24 miles from Melbourne on the Bacchus Marsh Road, who had been living at Hampshire Road, Sunshine, for several weeks.

Ten days ago he had left his home at Sunshine with a large sum of money. There were only a few coins on the body.

An Ascot Vale resident found the body almost submerged, about 15 feet from the northern bank of the river and about 150 yds downstream from the foot-sexy Rowing Club.

It was almost opposite the end of a road of about 100 yds long, the bank in a row of trees from one of many trees fringing the bank to a concrete jetty about 50 ft away.

The man took the Hamblede Square that he had walked along the bank several times in the

the sale of a car. When last seen Hurley was wearing a blue suit and was fatigued.

When found the body, which had been in the river several days, was clothed in a blue suit and he had shoes and socks. The clothes were not disarranged, but the blouse of a shirt taken on the left wrist was broken. The watch had stopped at 9.55.

## LOVELY SPOT

The place where the body was found is lovely, well screened by gums and palms from houses and other buildings on the southern bank and well kept from the busy tracks and highways in the district.

The body could not be seen from any of the bridges spanning the river.

Det. W. Moorey of the Hamblede Squad.



Post few days, but had seen no trace of the body until this morning.

But last week he had noticed what appeared to be bloodstains on the hard yellow earth of the bank, but had not considered it significant until he saw the body in the water today.

Harvey left his home about 7:30 p.m. on August 4 and did not return. He was reported missing to Eusebius Street police more than a week ago.

### HAD LARGE SUM

It is believed that when Harvey left home he was carrying a substantial sum of money, and intended to go to Newmarket that night to arrange the sale of a car. Harvey was

seen at Marlborough River on the east and west, and would be seen only with great difficulty by chance from the stream.

A track runs along the high new northern bank whose top level was found, and for some 200 yds. of the race course. It would be used by a car only in an emergency because the approach leads down a narrow steep slope from a level which is a bridge and the other approach a mile or two away, is straight.

The body was taken to the City Morgue for pathological examination. Inquiries are being made by Senior Detectives C. Peaty and Cyril Carter and Detective W. Moorey, of the homicide squad.



Murdered man, NORMAN HURRELL

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# WAS HURLEY LURED BY THUG?

## Police Theory In Murder

Police are considering a theory that the murderer of Norman Hurley was a thug, who wrote to him about the sale of a car to lure the youth to his death.

Hurley, a 19-year-old orphan, of Melton, was battered on the head with a spanner or tyre iron and thrown alive into the Maribyrnong river behind the Flemington Racecourse about 12 days ago.

Hurley was struck behind the head, behind the left ear, on the nose, and on the left side of the chin. Police evidence shows that he was dragged about 20 yards along the bank before being thrown into the river from a concrete jetty.

Hurley had been staying at a boarding house in Melbourne recently on care for sale. He was a trusting school boy and apparently was deceived by the river's edge by a man who knew his habits and intended to kill him for the money he was carrying.

Investigators of the State Savings Bank today revealed that Hurley had a credit balance of £107. It included deposits of £40 on July 22 and £60 on May 25 when he sold his car.

The exact sum Hurley was carrying is not known. It is thought that there was not more than £40 in a brown leather wallet in £1 notes and that the thickness of the roll may have misled the murderer. The wallet was the only article removed from the body. It has not been found.

Police are considering a theory that the murderer of Norman Hurley was a thug, who wrote to him about the sale of a car to lure the youth to his death.

### SPOKE OF TRUCK

Hurley's last car, a 1947 Ford, was found in a ditch near the river. The car was damaged and the driver was injured.

His two other brothers, Bill and Eric, also lived at the house. He occupied a room with a friend, Brian Piggott. Hurley was not missed until 7 a.m. on August 5. Two days later, Len Hurley reported that



## POLICE HUNT

The homicide squad is sure that certain that one man killed Hester and that he is still in Melbourne.

Today, under the direction of the chief of the homicide squad, Det. Sgt. J. R. Doreilly, operations are on a "log" basis between all levels, and a key telephone unit was established in the Professional Services Division.

They are trying to find any one who saw Hester in these districts between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. on August 4.

His two outstanding physical characteristics were prominent lower teeth and a pronounced hump of the left leg, which caused a definite limp.

The brother had mentioned that he intended to buy a better truck with the money received from a sports car he had sold a few months ago.

Det. Sgt. H. R. Doreilly, a police leader of Senior-Desk C. P. P. Adams and C. G. Gurney, and Det. W. M. Murney of the Homicide Squad and Det. Frank Deane of the Professional Services Division.

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<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article243527528>

# Battered Body Found

Norman Hurley, 19 years, of Melton, whose battered body was found, half submerged, in Murky river, River behind Flemington racecourse hill on Saturday, is believed to have fallen into the hands of desperate motor car "black-marketers" who killed him for his money.

The murder appears to have been one of the most brutal committed in Melbourne for many years.

A post-mortem examination showed that Hurley was alive when thrown into the river and that death occurred between 8.45 pm and 8.30 pm on August 4.

When Hurley left a temporary address at Hampshire road, Sunshine, on August 4



**NORMAN HURLEY.**

He carried with him about £400 to purchase a motor truck. Whether he finished a deal is not known. One supposition is that he had rather lively dealings with

one end of an 80-foot tram on blood and opposite the sheds of Footscray Rowing Club—a lonely area.

Only a few coins were in the clothing.

Detective-Sergeant H. R. Donnelly, chief of the Home-side Squad, and Senior Detectives W. W. Mooney, C. Kelly and C. Curren are in charge of the case.

took him for a trial run in a creek and then attacked and robbed him, before throwing him into the river.

Another theory being investigated is that Harvey went to his destination by bus. Anybody who on the evening of August 4 saw a south answer- ing the following description is asked to contact Russell-street police.

Medium build, dark brown hair, 5 feet 8 inches tall, brown eyes, prominent natural teeth. He walked with a decided limp in the left leg and had a slight stoop.

The body was found near the end of an 80-foot trail of blood and opposite the sheds of

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**POLICE ASK: "WHO SAW NORMAN HURLEY?"**

# Murder at riverside reconstructed

**HOMICIDE** detectives believe Norman Hurley, 19, tractor driver, was murdered last Wednesday week, the day he left Sunshine to inspect a truck that had been offered for sale.

Hurley's battered body was found floating in the Maribyrnong River behind the Hill at Flemington racecourse on Saturday.

Reconstructing the crime, police say Hurley was waylaid near the racecourse on the night of his disappearance, and taken by at least two men to the lonely northern bank of the river near the Footscray Rowing Club.

There the murderers robbed him, battered his head with an iron bar, dragged him along the bank to a concrete jetty about 40 yards away, and threw him, still alive, into the river.

A post-mortem examination revealed that the body had been in the water about 10 days. Death was directly due to drowning, with a

Police yesterday appealed to the public to help them trace Hurley's movements last Wednesday week. He may have travelled on buses from Sunshine to Flemington.

Hurley limped with his left leg, and had a slight stoop. He was 5ft 6in tall, and had dark brown curly hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a dark overcoat and suit, green pullover, and was hatless.

Hurley was an orphan. His home was at Melton, but he had been boarding with two of his brothers in Sunshine since March. He was employed at the Sunshine Harvester works.

Investigations are being made by a large squad of detectives, including Det-Sgt H. R. Donnelly, Sen Det. C. Petty, C. Currier, and P. J. Adam, and Det W. Mooney.



fractured skull and hemorrhage of the brain as contributing causes.

### **Had saved money**

Police said last night that they did not know how much money Hurley was carrying when he was murdered.

Friends of the dead man told the police yesterday that Hurley had sold a car recently. He had saved several hundred pounds, and had often been warned against showing large rolls of notes in public.

Police yesterday appealed to the



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<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22690956>

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Monday 16 August 1948, page 1

**NORMAN HUBLEY**

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<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22690956>



# Magnet In River Search

A powerful magnet, or-  
deted from Sydney, will be  
used to try to find a mur-  
der weapon in the Mar-  
berrong River.

Norman Hurley, the 19-  
year-old lad whose body  
was found in the river on  
Saturday, had been hat-  
tered on the head.

It is believed Hurley was  
murdered on August 4, and  
thrown into the river.

A wireless message from Syd-  
ney police today said the mag-  
net would arrive by air  
tomorrow. It will be used  
immediately from the water  
police patrol launch. After-  
wards it will become standard  
equipment of the Police Search  
Unit Bureau.

A small hole on the left side  
of Hurley's chin, similar to the  
bullet, was resembling the one  
found on the hat. It could be made by a  
stereo knife.

Letter Clue — Page 3

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# Girl May Aid in Riverside Murder Quest

According to a room mate of Norman Hurley, 19 years, whose battered body was found in Maribyrnong River on Saturday morning, Hurley, when he left his temporary home at Sunshine on the evening of August 4, said he was going to Melbourne to meet a girl.

Any girl who may have met the ill-fated young man is requested to communicate immediately with the police.

Meanwhile, the six detectives working on the case are confronted with one of the most brutal and perplexing crimes committed in Melbourne for many years.

Yesterday, they were informed that Hurley had only about £50 in his wallet when he left home. Previously, it was understood that the sum was £400.

His bank book on the State Savings Bank at Melton, which also was missing when the body was found, showed a credit of £156.

Criminal Investigation department officers still think Hurley was battered and thrown into the stream while alive by some person, or persons, whom he had contacted in connection with his plan to buy a motor truck.

It is believed Hurley was unacquainted with the lonely locality where, presumably, he was set upon and, therefore, could easily have been led astray during the negotiations for the purchase of the truck.

Hurley is described as having been "an honest and decent citizen, well liked, and apparently without any enemies."



# Murdered man's bank book missing

**D**ETECTIVES investigating the murder of Norman Hurley, 19, said last night that his bank book as well as his wallet was missing.

He had a credit balance at the State Savings Bank of £167. Deposits included £90 on May 25, when he sold his sports car, and £40 on July 27.

The bankbook was not among Hurley's personal belongings.

Police, who are almost certain that robbery was the motive for the murder, believe there was not more than £50 in his wallet.

Hurley's body was recovered from the Marlborough Flyer, near Flemington racecourse, on Saturday. He

had been battered about the head and thrown into the water while still alive.

Working separately, six detectives under Detective Sergeant H. B. Donnelly, chief of the Homicide Squad, tried yesterday to trace Hurley's movements after he left his boarding-house in Sunshine on August 4.

Bus drivers and passengers were in-

interviewed, but none could help the police.

A number of people known to police, who were reported in the district the night of the murder, will be interviewed by detectives today.

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<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22687975>

## Letter May Help In Murder Hunt

Two clues in the Maribyrnong River murder being investigated today by the Homicide Squad and Flemington detectives are a letter written by the victim, Norman Hurley, the night before his death and a wallet found late yesterday near the Footscray station.

It seems unlikely that the wallet is the one Hurley was carrying when he disappeared.

Hurley, a 19-year-old orphan, wrote the letter from Blair Athol boarding house, Hampden Road, Sunshine, where he had been living with his two brothers for several months.

Police think it was addressed to Hurley's brother-in-law. They are not certain the letter will prove to be a vital clue but they hope it contained useful information.

They have not recovered the letter yet but have been able to identify some messages by facsimile the homicide paper on the writing pad to a mirror.

The letter was headed "Stanhope (Tuesday August 15) Five drive in (unrecoverable) to read Dear Jack, I will be out soon for the 1948 model Chevrolet model."

Significant impressions on the blotting paper are the figures 1007. Hurley had been talking of buying a car and was interested mainly in a 1947 Chevrolet model.

The word "Stanhope" appears on the blotting paper but its relevance is not yet known.

The Chief of the Homicide Squad, Detective Sergeant H. R. Donnelly, said today that the detectives on the Hurley case were puzzled and still baffled.

Sgt. Donnelly said he still hoped that the public would be able to give the Homicide Squad a lead.

He said a man named G. Mervin who saw a bare-headed youth with a limp between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. on the night of Wednesday August 4, to telephone him at Russell Street immediately.



## BODY-IN-RIVER CASE

# Man Charged With Murder

Eric Stanley Jacobi, 44, of Gordon Street, Footscray, was charged at the City Watchhouse late this afternoon with the murder of Norman Hurley, 19-year-old orphan, at Flemington on August 4.

He and Hurley had been employed as tractor drivers at the H. V. McKay-Massey Harris harvester works, Hamptre Road, Sunshine for the past few months.

Hurley had been reported missing 10 days before his battered body was found in the Mersey river, behind the Mill at Flemington racecourse.

He lived at Malton for most of his life, but for the past few months had been living at the Blair Athol boarding house, Kemptville Road, Sunshine, with his elder brother, Bill and Leah.

He was known to be a quiet boy of sober habits who did not keep bad company. When a post-mortem examination on Hurley was made last Saturday, no trace of alcohol was found in his blood.

### LEFT AT 7 P.M.

Home-leave detectives have established that Hurley left the boarding-house about before 7 p.m. on August 4.

Before he left he asked his room-mate, Brian Pigott, directions to Barclay Street, Footscray. Asked what he was doing that night he answered that he was going to meet a girl.

It was found afterwards that

Hurley often gave this reply when he wished to avoid direct questions. He travelled by bus to the corner of Barclay and Nicholson streets, Footscray, which is about a mile south-west of the place where he was found.

SEARCHED: THE NEWS AT THE  
CORNER

Today's street scene after five  
days of round-the-clock ques-  
tioning and dull routine "leg"  
work by every member of the  
Russell Street homicide squad.

As late as 8.30 a.m. today De-  
tective Sgt. Donnelly said he was  
still battling but not pessimis-  
tic. Later in the morning,  
however, quiet developments  
followed a visit to the Harvester  
works.

The homicide squad which  
was led by the chief Detective  
Sergeant H. R. Donnelly, con-  
sisted of Senior Detectives  
Charles Peery, F. J. "Babe"  
Adam and Cyril Currier, and  
Detectives W. W. "Moosey"  
Ther, were joined by Detective

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<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article243529816>

# MURDER FINDING IN DEATH OF YOUTH

## Driver's alleged statement

**MR BURKE, PM, city coroner, yesterday committed Eric Stanley Jacobi, 44, tractor driver, of Gordon street, Footscray, for trial in the Supreme Court on September 15, for the murder of Norman Hurley, 19, of Hampshire road, Sunshine, whose body was found in the Maribyrnong River on August 14.**

Hurley, a truck driver and a fellow employee of Jacobi's at the Sunshine works of H. V. McKay Massey Harries, disappeared after his evening meal on August 4.

Dr K. M. Bowden, medical practitioner, of Kew, told the coroner that he performed a post-mortem examination on Hurley's body and found extensive wounds in the head and face, involving fractured jawbone, cheekbone, and skull. Hurley's death was due to drowning.

After about 24 witnesses had been heard yesterday, Mr Burke rejected a submission by Mr J. Galbally, Jacobi's counsel, that since there was no evidence that his client had put Hurley in the river, he could not be guilty of murder or manslaughter.

### CORONER'S VIEW

Detective Petty read Jacobi's alleged statement, in which Jacobi said that he went with Hurley by bus to near the racecourse bridge over the river. The pretext was that he was going

to introduce Hurley to a man who wanted to sell a 1937 Chevrolet truck, which Hurley was eager to buy. They went to the back of the racecourse, and there he struck Hurley several times with an iron bar, and then threw the bar into the river.

"I grabbed the iron bar and hit him," the alleged statement continued. "It was still wrapped up. I hit him on the head somewhere. It was pretty dark, and he started to squeal or sing out. I hit him again on the head somewhere, and we started to scuffle. I don't know how many times I hit him, but I think it would be three or four."



Consideration of the whole of the evidence, Mr Burke said led to the irresistible conclusion that Jacobo did throw Hurley into the river after severely wounding him. He therefore committed Jacobo to stand trial for murder.

Senior-Detective Charles Herbert Petty detailed an alleged confession by Jacobo, in which it was stated that Jacobo wanted £200 which it was rumoured Hurley was carrying. The money was wanted to pay off a car which Jacobo had recently bought. Detective Petty read Jacobo's alleged

**STATEMENT CONTINUES**

"I put my hand in his inside coat pocket and I got his wallet. When I got the wallet he was semi-dazed and on the ground. While we were scuffling we moved back towards the bridge, and as I made off he was groaning. The last I saw of him he was on his hands and knees moving towards the river.

"I walked until I got within 20 yards or so from the steps, and I opened the wallet. I put my hand on the side and took out a pound note and a ten shilling note, and I

note and a ten shilling note, and I  
said to myself, 'Pancey, only 30 bob.'  
I threw the wallet down on the  
roadway. I didn't interfere with the  
other things that were in it."  
A rusty iron bar weighing 33lb,  
which police claimed came from the  
McKay works and was used to inflict  
the injuries on Hurley, was produced  
at the inquest. Police said they  
retrieved the bar from the river with  
a magnet on August 19.

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# MURDER FINDING IN DEATH

## OF YOUTH

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"I walked until I got within 20 yards or so from the steps, and I opened the wallet. I put my hand on the side and took out a pound note and a ten shilling note, and I

note and a ten shilling note, and I said to myself, 'Pancy, only 30 bob.' I threw the wallet down on the roadway. I didn't interfere with the other things that were in it."

A rusty iron bar weighing 31lb, which police claimed came from the McKay works and was used to inflict the injuries on Hurley, was produced at the inquest. Police said they retrieved the bar from the river with a magnet on August 19.

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## Man Guilty In River Murder

The "River Murder" trial ended in the Criminal Court today when Eric Stanley Jacob, 44, of Gordon Street, Portsea, tractor driver, was found guilty and sentenced to death.

He was convicted of murdering Norman Strick, 19, of the banks of the Merriam River, behind Roper's Racecourse, on August 4.

Mr Justice Fullagar told the jury that he could not see how the case could have been any other way.

Last Day of Trial—P.3

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## Death Penalty for Murder of Workmate

Eric Stanley Jacob, 44 years, was sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Fullagar in the Criminal Court yesterday for the murder on August 4 of his workmate, William Hurley, 19 years.

Hurley's body was recovered from the Maribyrnong River 10 days after he was reported missing from his lodgings in Hampshire-road, Sunshine, on August 4.

The jury convicted Jacob on a charge of murder after 25 minutes' deliberations.

When, after he had been found guilty, Jacob was asked if he had anything to say, he replied firmly, "I have nothing to say, your Honor."

No evidence was called for the defence. Mr. J. F. McInerney (for Jacob), in his final address to the jury, submitted that Jacob was not guilty of murder, but might be guilty of manslaughter.

Mr. McInerney was instructed by Mr. J. W. Galbally, Mr. Leo Little prosecuted.

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## JACOBI NOT TO HANG

Earl Searling Jacoby, 44, who  
had driven off Edward Street  
Footscray, is not to hang for  
the murder of 14-year-old Sus-  
sann Haxley, of Hamplshire

Edward Searling, general manager today  
announced the final sentence  
to the applicant without  
the benefit of the final regula-

tions on remission.  
The means that normally  
Jacoby will stay in goal until  
the day.

Haxley's battered body was  
found in the Maryborough  
River, near Portland Reserve-  
camp on August 19.  
and JACOBY were victims.

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