

Series information

Title: Old Times, Old Crimes
Producer: Stephen Wake
Station: Southern Vales Community Radio (5ZZZ), McLaren Vale, SA

Synopsis:

Crime is as old as humanity. When Europeans came to Australia, they brought their own brands of crime with them. In Old Times, Old Crimes, you explore crimes through the history of Australia. Listen to true stories of murder, mutiny, cannibalism, arson, infanticide, robbery and more. Some of these crimes were committed by convicts, some by the poor and some by the desperate. Some people were tried but never convicted and other crimes were never solved.

A ten part series brought to you by the Willunga branch of the National Trust and Southern Vales Community Radio (5ZZZ).

Opening Dialogue:

You're now listening to Old times, old crimes.

Closing Dialogue:

Old times, old crimes was written and produced by the Willunga Branch of the National Trust and Southern Vales Community Radio, with the assistance of the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

EP 1:	MUTINY, MAYHEM AND MASS MURDER ON A REMOTE CORAL ISLAND
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	This is the story of the first mass murders by Europeans to have occurred in Australia. In 1629 the Dutch East India Company ship Batavia was wrecked in the Abrolhos Islands off the coast of Western Australia. In the aftermath about 125 men, women and children were brutally murdered by mutineers. This resulted in the first trial and brutal executions by Europeans in Australia.
Duration:	06:00

EP 2:	TUNNELLING TO RICHES: THE 1828 BANK OF AUSTRALIA ROBBERY
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	In 1828, thieves tunnelled from a drain to the strongroom of the Bank of Australia in Sydney, which was founded by wealthy capitalists to serve their own interests. The public felt

	immense satisfaction at this loss, and refused to cooperate with authorities. The thieves were finally apprehended but due to legal complications, their death sentences were effectively commuted to life imprisonment and they were sent to Norfolk Island.
Duration:	6:00

EP 3:	THE UNAPPETISING TALE OF ALEXANDER PEARCE
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	In 1822, Alexander Pearce and some fellow convicts escaped from the one of the harshest penal settlements in Australia - the Macquarie Harbour Penal Settlement, Tasmania. Starving in the wilderness, they began killing each other for food, and Pearce was the last man to survive. He was recaptured only to escape the Settlement again with another companion who subsequently also suffered a grisly fate. Pearce finally surrendered, was tried for murder and hanged.
Duration:	6:00

EP 4:	MALACHI MARTIN - SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER?
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	Malachi Martin had a reputation as a "hard man" and in 1855 he almost certainly cut the throat of William Robinson. He was believed to have been responsible for a number of disappearances, and probable murders, at Salt Creek in South Australia. In June 1862 he was tried and convicted in the Supreme Court for the murder of Jane McManamen. He was hanged at the Adelaide Gaol on 24 December 1862 where he is buried within the walls.
Duration:	6:00

EP 5:	THE MYSTERY OF THE AVOCA GOLD
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	5000 gold sovereigns missing from a ship's cargo! This 1877 robbery tells the story of a wily ship's carpenter who fooled the authorities, escaped from police and later died, it is thought, while trying to retrieve his ill-gotten gains. Many of the sovereigns are still missing, perhaps still to be found in South Gippsland.
Duration:	6:00

EP 6:	THE CONTROVERSIAL CONSTABLE
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	In 1891 Mounted Constable William Henry Willshire was charged with the wilful murder of two Indigenous men at Tempe Downs station in the Northern Territory. Despite damning testimony given by some of the native troopers under his command, he was acquitted to popular acclaim and the cheers of the townsfolk of Port Augusta.
Duration:	6:00

EP 7:	WHO LIT THE FIRE IN 1874?
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	A country town in South Australia is threatened by bush fire, which caused enormous damage to farmland. It was clearly arson but who started the fire? Was it the farmer, his wife or his wife's brother who held a grudge? Or someone else? The case was never solved!
Duration:	6:00

EP 8:	THE BRUNSWICK BABY MURDERS
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth, Paddy O'Toole and Stephen Wake
Synopsis:	Frances Knorr was known as the Baby Farming Murderess. In the early 1890s she set up business as a child minder (then also known as "baby farming"). Frances strangled some of the babies that she could not place elsewhere or sell to childless couples. She was tried and found guilty of infanticide. Frances Knorr was hanged in the Old Melbourne Gaol on Monday 15 January 1894.
Duration:	6:00

EP 9:	JANE NIGHTINGALE AND THE TARINGA FIRE
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth and Paddy O'Toole
Synopsis:	In 1914, a fire at the Salvation Army Home at Taringa, a suburb of Brisbane, caused the deaths of three people and injured others. A young woman, Jane Nightingale, was arrested for starting the fires. The ensuing court case and Jane's life after it were to expose deficiencies in the Queensland

	social welfare system at the time.
Duration:	6:00

EP 10:	THE BOY BUSH RANGER
Interviewees:	Mark Staniforth, Paddy O’Toole and Stephen Wake
Synopsis:	Norman Wilfred Baker was aged just 14 years and 10 months when he became the boy bushranger of Willunga in South Australia. Baker bailed up Mr. Frederick De Caux with a rifle and stole 28 shillings from him. He was captured and charged with robbery under arms. Baker was found guilty and sentenced to be detained at the Magill Boy’s Reformatory until he was 18 years of age.
Duration:	6:00

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