



# Evidence for Murder

## How physics convicted a killer

Rod Cross

classification >

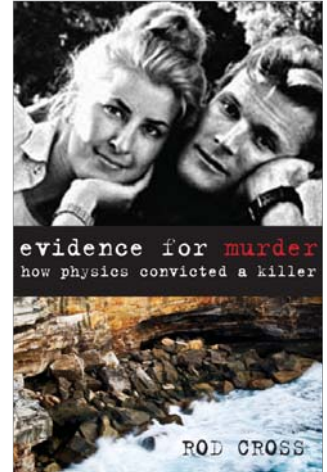
True Crime / Physics / Forensic Science

When Australian model Caroline Byrne's body was discovered at the base of a cliff known as The Gap, a famous Sydney landmark and popular suicide spot, the police assumed her death was suicide. As a result, no crime scene was established, no measurements were taken, no photographs were taken, and no police log books recorded the events surrounding the recovery of her body. And yet forensic science would eventually prove that she could not possibly have landed in the place her body was found – wedged head-first into a crevice almost nine metres from the edge of the cliff – if she had jumped. Over a decade later, her then-boyfriend, Gordon Wood, the chauffeur of famous Sydney stockbroker Rene Rivkin, was successfully prosecuted for her murder.

Written by Rod Cross, the forensic scientist who provided the crucial evidence that led to Wood's conviction, *Evidence for Murder* sets out a behind-the-scenes narrative of the investigation and the trial, chronicling the police investigation and detailing the science behind the forensic evidence. It will be of immense interest to true crime readers, those fascinated in the role of science in criminal investigations, and anyone who has followed this case in the press.

### About the Author

**Rod Cross** is a forensic scientist and former Professor of Physics at the University of Sydney, where he now works as an honorary member of staff. He led the scientific investigation into whether Caroline Byrne jumped or was thrown over the edge of the cliff at The Gap. He continues to work in forensic physics and on the physics of sport. He is a consultant to the NSW Coroner and the NSW Homicide Squad, and to Tennis Australia.



[www.unswpress.com.au/  
isbn/9781742231075.htm](http://www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/9781742231075.htm)

### Contents

Preface

Prologue

PART 1: The Suspicious Death of  
Caroline Byrne

- 1 The night of 7 June 1995
- 2 The inquest
- 3 We don't investigate crime
- 4 Taskforce Irondale
- 5 Gathering the evidence

PART 2: Physics: The Evidence for Murder

- 6 'Numerous possible variables'
- 7 Pyramid Rock
- 8 Spearthrow technique
- 9 The Tedeschi method
- 10 Powderly's memory

PART 3: The Trial of Gordon Wood

- 11 Preparing for the trial
- 12 The trial begins
- 13 Witnesses for the prosecution
- 14 My evidence
- 15 Defence witnesses
- 16 Closing addresses
- 17 The verdict

18 Afterthoughts

Appendices

Further reading

Index

## Special 20% discount offer

Order your copy using the order form overpage or via the web  
at this special link to receive 20% off the normal price:

[www.unswpress.com.au/code13/p1075](http://www.unswpress.com.au/code13/p1075)

UNSW Press • University of New South Wales Sydney NSW 2052 • [www.unswpress.com.au](http://www.unswpress.com.au)

Specifications >

9781742231075, October 2009, New South, 336pp,  
234x153mm, PB, AU\$34.95



# Order Form

**Four Ways to Order UNSW Press Titles**

1. Order on our secure website [www.unswpress.com.au](http://www.unswpress.com.au)
2. Over the phone from TLD on 02 8778 9999 or fax 02 8778 9944
3. Using the order form included below
4. Through your local bookshop

**Prices & Postage**

All prices are in Australian dollars and include 10% GST. Postage Australia & NZ wide is AUD\$5.00. Delivery within Australia is by Australia Air Express.

**Returns Policy**

If a book is supplied misbound or misprinted, you are entitled to a refund or exchange upon returning the book(s) with purchase details (receipt) and full contact details attached.

**Media Enquiries**

For author interviews, and other media enquiries:  
email: [marketing@unswpress.com.au](mailto:marketing@unswpress.com.au) ph: 02 9664 0902

**Ordering Details**

NewSouth Books  
c/- TLD  
15-23 Helles Ave  
Moorebank NSW 2170  
Australia

ph: +61 2 8778 9999  
fax: +61 2 8778 9944

Scan and email this form to: [orders@tldistribution.com.au](mailto:orders@tldistribution.com.au)

ABN: 40 000 382 669

**Please send me the following titles**

Title	Qty	Unit Price	Price
1. Evidence for Murder (20% off special)	<input type="text"/>	\$27.96	<input type="text"/>
2. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Subtotal:</b> \$			<input type="text"/>

**Postage:** (Australia/NZ Wide) AUD\$5.00

**Total:** \$

**Delivery & Payment Details**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ PostCode:  Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: (please include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque payable to NewSouth Books for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Or

**Please charge to my credit card**  VISA  Mastercard  AMEX  Diners Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name:

Card number:  Expiry date:  /

Signature: