

Alleged car chase in court

►WAGGA

A SYDNEY man who allegedly stole a car, led police on a chase and crashed into an Ashmont home has 17 charges to face when he appears in Wagga Local Court tomorrow.

The 21-year-old man was arrest-

ed after he was behind the wheel of a red Ford Fairlane, which went out of control and slammed into the house, police said.

The incident occurred at the intersection of Connorton Avenue and Tobruk Street around 4.15pm on Saturday.

According to police, a Ford

Territory stolen from an Ambarvale address on Friday was also found at the scene and the man was arrested.

He was taken to Wagga police station where further checks found he was wanted by police in Sydney in relation to an aggravated robbery, stolen vehicles and a

police pursuit.

The man will now face Wagga Local Court tomorrow to answer to five counts of driving while unlicensed.

He will also answer to three counts of failing to stop and give particulars as well as take and drive conveyance, and single

charges of negligent driving, aggravated robbery, driving in a dangerous manner, not stopping in a police pursuit, escaping custody and resisting arrest.

He was also charged with revocation of parole by virtue of a first instance warrant and bail was refused.

Charges after hit on cops

►WAGGA

TWO men were dealt with by way of capicum spray when they were arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Police were investigating a break and enter that had occurred in Yulong Place, Glenfield Park when they saw two young men walking north in Barrima Street around 1.45am. They were stopped by the officers, who wished to speak to them in relation to the break and enter, and were placed under arrest so their identities could be confirmed and the investigation could continue.

According to police, the 20-year-old man lashed out and struck a female officer in the face before attempting to run away. As officers restrained the man, his 18-year-old friend ran off. A male officer gave chase and confronted him in a Fernleigh Road garden, where he allegedly struggled violently as the officer attempted to restrain him and then used capicum spray to subdue him.

Meanwhile, the 20-year-old man also escaped and was confronted by another male officer in Fernleigh Road a short time later, where he allegedly struck the policeman to the face.

He was also sprayed with capicum spray before he was restrained. The 18-year-old has been charged with assaulting police and resisting arrest, while the 20-year-old was charged with three counts of assaulting police and one of resisting arrest. Both men will front Wagga Local Court on April 4.

Officer's darkest days in book

►WAGGA

By Ashleigh Gleeson

HE IS no longer a policeman but Paul Horner arrived in Wagga last week with a vision to help the local area command.

Currently promoting his book *Jack Knife* – which lays bare his time in NSW Police Force – his main hope is to stop young police officers falling into the same spiral of depression he did from the pressures of the beat.

Smashed in the face with a beer bottle while on duty as a senior constable in Bourke, everything changed for Mr Horner.

It wasn't the extensive physical injuries and dental problems – although painful – that formed the hardest part of his recovery, but the alleged lack of support from the police force.

"I'm not here to be negative – I want to put positive pressure on every police force in Australia," he said.

"It's not easy to talk about what I went through but if I can help people, well that's the reason I wrote the book."

The moment Mr Horner hit rock bottom he found himself sitting in a toilet cubicle with a gun in his mouth, one finger movement away from ending it all.

After being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder Mr Horner, now 38, said he felt like there was a weight lifted from his shoulders.

"It was a relief, not that it was an excuse but it was an explanation," he said.

"That's how I started writing the book."

"I was told it would help to write a diary about everything."

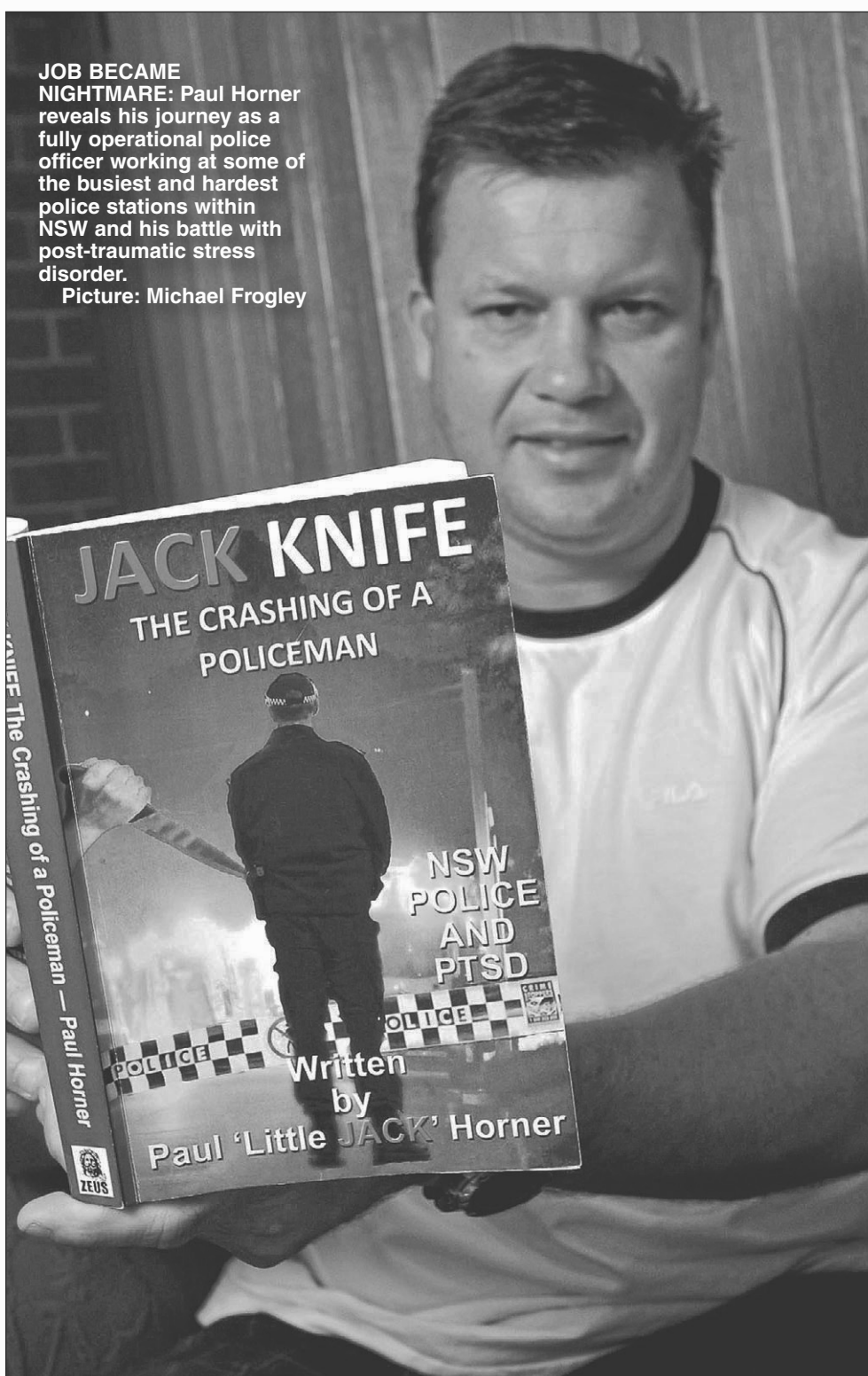
"I still have my bad days, but I can often see the signs and symptoms now."

Mr Horner spent 11 years in the NSW Police Force in charge of proactive task forces.

Anyone wanting to purchase a copy of *Jack Knife* can do so by going to the publisher's website www.zeuspublications.com.

JOB BECAME NIGHTMARE: Paul Horner reveals his journey as a fully operational police officer working at some of the busiest and hardest police stations within NSW and his battle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Picture: Michael Frogley



I still have my bad days, but I can often see the signs and symptoms now.

Author and ex-police officer Paul Horner

NEWS BRIEFS

Water main woe during fire battle

FIREFIGHTERS faced a setback on Saturday night when a water main in Wentworth Street broke while they were battling to contain an industrial fire at S&M Metals in Lawson Street. Firefighters had brought the fire under control using a main in Lawson Street and were working to contain the blaze to its original break out points about 8pm when the secondary water main was affected by a "water hammer". Riverina Water director of engineering Greg Finlayson said a water hammer is caused when a high-pressured surge of water is turned on and off quickly. He said workers were on scene immediately and had the main fixed within an hour.

Fire and Rescue NSW called in tankers from the Rural Fire Service to help convey water to the scene when the main broke.

Man admits to wielding knife

WAGGA man Peter John Matthews yesterday pleaded guilty to wielding a knife in a public place on Sunday.

Matthews, 42, was arrested in Wiradjuri Crescent by police called there about 1.25pm on reports of a man wielding a large knife.

Police said Matthews approached a police officer and a paramedic with the knife but put it down when threatened with a taser.

Matthews will be sentenced in Wagga Local Court on March 26.

Man kept quiet on Singh murder due to threats to family

►SUPREME COURT

INDIAN national Gurpreet Singh maintained his silence over a brutal murder near Griffith in 2009 after initially lying to police because of threats made against him and his wife, a Supreme Court judge was told yesterday.

A knife had been held to the chest of Gurpreet Singh as a warning when help was being sought to kill another man.

It was through fear that Singh and his wife, Harpreet Kaur Bhullar, became involved in driving another Indian national to a location about 25 kilometres from Griffith where he was killed on December 28, 2009. Ranjodh Singh, 25, had demanded money from a fruit picking contractor, who decided to kill him.

Subsequently, Singh was stabbed repeatedly, had his throat cut twice and was set alight, with his charred body found

the following day beside a road.

Bhullar was told to drive the vehicle, Gurpreet Singh was a front seat passenger with Ranjodh Singh grabbed by the other man and put in the back of the car. "After a while, he told my wife to stop the car," Gurpreet Singh said in the Supreme Court at Albury.

The other man obtained the car keys and took Ranjodh Singh from the car.

A short time later Gurpreet Singh saw a

fire, had just got out of the car to investigate when he was told by the other man that he had killed Ranjodh Singh.

The other man told Gurpreet Singh and his wife what to say if questioned by police and made threats against them.

Gurpreet Singh, who has been in custody since January 28, 2010, said he only decided in recent weeks to tell police the truth about what happened.

— The Border Mail