

Clue in road rage attack

Mark Buttler

POLICE believe they are near a breakthrough in the cold-case investigation of a vicious machete road-rage attack.

Melbourne CIU detectives say they have new leads on the shocking assault outside the Arts Centre in St Kilda Rd.

Sen-Det Jeff Carrucan said police had recently received information from Crime Stoppers identifying an early-model blue Mazda 626 hatchback.

The victim had been travelling with friends in a taxi along St Kilda Rd on July 6 last year when they were cut off by a blue hatchback.

Soon after, both cars stopped at traffic lights outside the Arts Centre.

A verbal row grew into a fight, and the victim was struck with a machete.

He suffered a serious head wound and a broken thumb.

Up to five men in the hatchback then drove away.

The victim told the *Herald Sun* that the attack was still taking a toll on him.

"My life was turned around in a minute of chaos. On the outside, I look all right, but it still affects me," he said.

"They were looking for trouble and I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"It's put a dampener on my life... a lot of strain."

The victim said the group needed to be caught.

"This happened last July. Who knows what they've got up to since then?" he said.

Sen-Det Carrucan said the outbreak of violence was totally out of proportion to the minor traffic incident.

"Even though this attack happened over 12 months ago, it's important for offenders to realise that we don't close and forget unsolved cases," he said.

"All it sometimes takes is a simple phone call. Someone out there knows who these people are," he said.

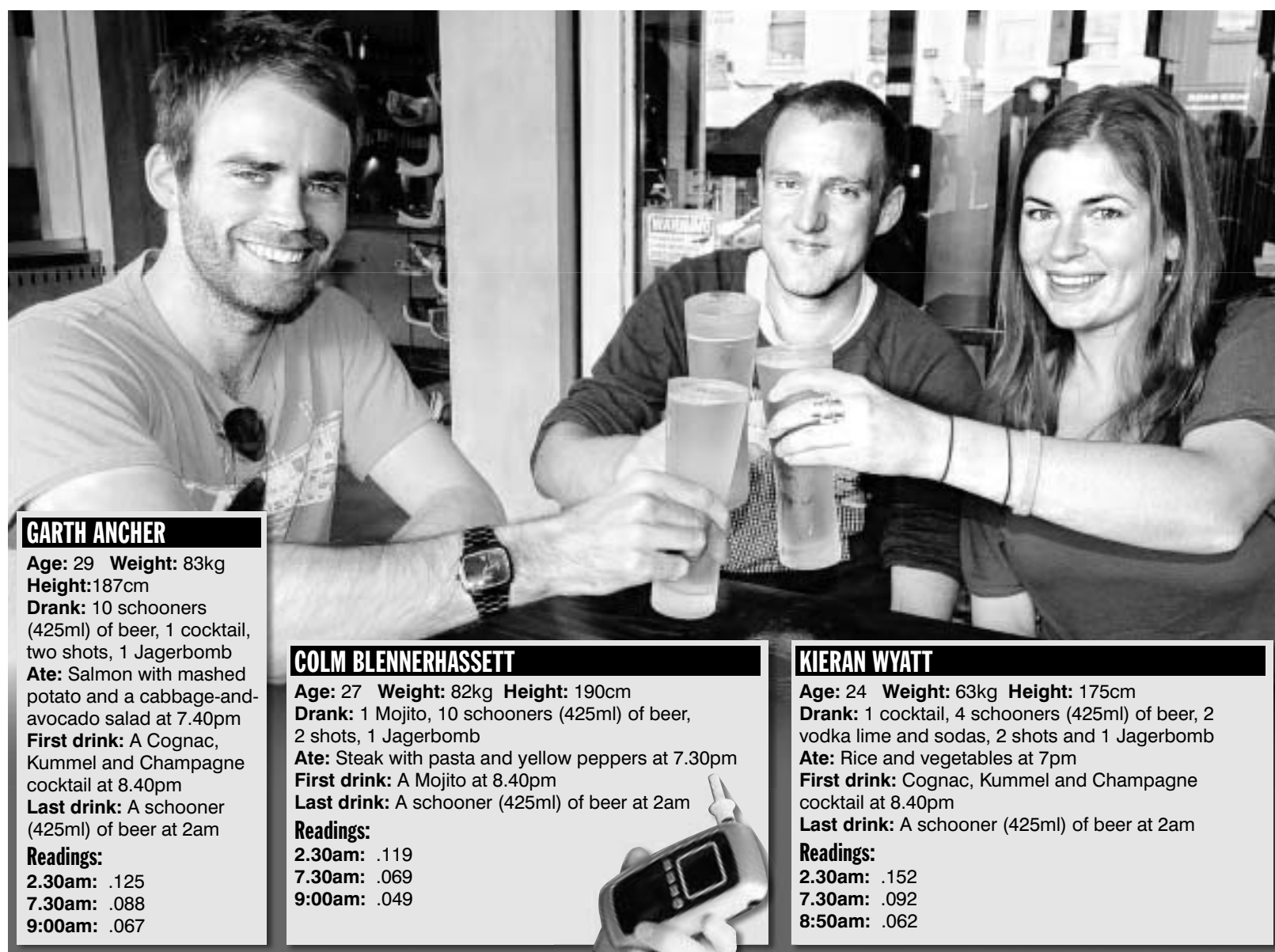
Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit the website www.crimestoppers.com.au

Six injured in acid attack

HONG Kong police were investigating a fifth acid attack in a year after six people were injured by a bottle of corrosive liquid in a shopping district.

The plastic bottle was hurled in Causeway Bay on Saturday.

Five women and a man suffered burns and were sent to hospital for treatment.



GARTH ANCHER

Age: 29 **Weight:** 83kg **Height:** 187cm
Drank: 10 schooners (425ml) of beer, 1 cocktail, two shots, 1 Jagerbomb
Ate: Salmon with mashed potato and a cabbage-and-avocado salad at 7.40pm
First drink: A Cognac, Kummel and Champagne cocktail at 8.40pm
Last drink: A schooner (425ml) of beer at 2am
Readings:
 2.30am: .125
 7.30am: .088
 9:00am: .067

COLM BLENNERHASSETT

Age: 27 **Weight:** 82kg **Height:** 190cm
Drank: 1 Mojito, 10 schooners (425ml) of beer, 2 shots, 1 Jagerbomb
Ate: Steak with pasta and yellow peppers at 7.30pm
First drink: A Mojito at 8.40pm
Last drink: A schooner (425ml) of beer at 2am
Readings:
 2.30am: .119
 7.30am: .069
 9:00am: .049

KIERAN WYATT

Age: 24 **Weight:** 63kg **Height:** 175cm
Drank: 1 cocktail, 4 schooners (425ml) of beer, 2 vodka lime and sodas, 2 shots and 1 Jagerbomb
Ate: Rice and vegetables at 7pm
First drink: Cognac, Kummel and Champagne cocktail at 8.40pm
Last drink: A schooner (425ml) of beer at 2am
Readings:
 2.30am: .152
 7.30am: .092
 8:50am: .062

Beware the morning after road menace

VICTORIANS could be putting lives at risk by unwittingly drink-driving the morning after a big Christmas booze binge.

Alcohol experts issued a sobering wake-up call to partygoers warning that only time can rid your system of alcohol.

A *Herald Sun* investigation into the blood-alcohol concentration of revellers shows how easy it is to still be over the .05 limit the morning after a night of drinking.

Our sample shows that people can still record a high alcohol concentration after a

Lucie van den Berg

night's sleep, putting them at risk of drink-driving to work.

The Alfred hospital's drug-and-alcohol specialist Dr Benny Monheit said it took the liver an hour to metabolise one standard drink.

"If you have a big binge the night before then some of it will still be in your system the next morning, which means that your driving will still be impaired," he said.

"It is a rough estimate, sometimes people lose control of how much they drink and they can't remember the

correct number. There is a also a little bit of variation across gender and age."

He recommends having a meal before drinking to slow the absorption of alcohol.

He also pointed out that there are personal breath testers available to consumers that would give them a rough indication of their blood-alcohol concentration.

International drug prevention expert Peer van der Kreeft, who is in Australia for the Life Education Australia International Conference, warned Victorians that alcohol was still a drug.

"Alcohol certainly does not

disappear if you drink a lot of alcohol, go home at 2am, and you start work early in the morning," said the head of prevention at the University College Ghent, Belgium.

"It's not only a matter of the chemical detection of alcohol, it's the influence of alcohol on your brain, your reflexes and complex decision making, which you need for driving."

Transport Accident Commission community relations executive manager Phil Reed said if people were in any doubt at all then they shouldn't drive.

"Regardless of when you

had your last drink and how good you feel, it's going to take your body a long time to process it," he said.

Victoria Police are cracking down on drink-driving and our "drink to get drunk" culture this festive season.

On Saturday night, Operation Unite nabbed 29 drivers with a blood-alcohol reading of more than .05.

A total of 10,798 people were breath tested and one in 372 people was found to be over the limit.

For more information on breath testers visit www.drinkingmate.com.au.

Union boss under fire on green energy deals

CONTROVERSIAL union leader Dean Mighell is under fire for owning the trademark for an environmental training course run by his Electrical Trades Union.

Mr Mighell is also defending his union's investment in a green energy venture that has turned sour.

The state ETU branch put \$500,000 into Melbourne-based environmental outfit Green Invest, but the company has reported a loss of almost \$3 million in the past year.

Last year, Green Invest paid \$250,000 for the trademark of a green plumbers course run by the plumbing industry.

A company search reveals Mr Mighell owns the trademark and holding company for a similar



Dean Mighell

course for electricians run by the ETU.

The union's national executive had been unaware Mr Mighell owned the trademark.

National ETU secretary Peter Tighe said it was a bad look, but after speaking to Mr Mighell and the

operator of the training course he was satisfied any income would flow back to the union.

Mr Mighell said he wasn't interested in selling the GGE trademark to Green Invest.

"The trademark is in my name until such time that we work out with the union what we best do with it," he said.

Mr Mighell defended the ETU's investment in Green Invest, saying a decision had been taken at the union's national level to support firms that created jobs for members.

Green Invest executive director Ron Lunt said the company had recently undergone a restructure and had stopped the "cash burn".

- John Masanauskas

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