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| John Justin Bunting | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Jessica Heckel, Tracy Drum, & Karoline Gravitt*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Events** | |
| 09/04/1966 | 0 | Inala, Queensland, Australia; born without a sense of smell | |
| 1974 | 8 | Beaten and sexually assaulted by friend’s older brother. | |
| 1981 | 15 | First sexual experience and he got the girl pregnant. | |
| 1986 | 20 | He had a job at a crematorium. | |
| ? | Teen | Enjoyed weaponry, photography, and anatomy. | |
| 1988 | 22 | Worked at SA Meat Corporation. He would brag about slaughtering the animals – saying that’s what he enjoyed the most. Shared house with Kevin Reid and Kevin’s girlfriend in N. Adelaide’s. Bunting killed Kevin’s terrier bulldog. | |
| ? | Young adult | Strong hatred discovered for homosexuals and pedophiles. | |
| 01/1989 | 23 | Bunting began taking a class for metal work. Also met Veronika Tripp during this time. | |
| 09/1989 | 23 | Tripp and Bunting got married. He now has a step-son, James, but only Veronika moved into the house that he shared with Kevin. | |
| 12/14/1991 | 25 | Bunting moved with Tripp to 203 Waterloo Corner Rd, Salisburry North Australia. | |
| 08/1992 | 26 | Killed Clinton Trezise. (First victim murdered) | |
| 1994 | 28 | Was in a sexual relationship with Elizabeth Harvy while still married to Veronika Tripp. During this year Bunting killed cats and dogs and skinned them. He got James to watch. Bunting also meet Vlassakis in April of ’94. | |
| 1995 | 29 | Step-son James moved into house with Bunting and Veronika. In December, he murdered Ray Davies. | |
| 02/1997 | 30 | Police saw Suzanne’s name and account had withdrawals in Murray Bridge and linked to John Bunting’s address; Bunting told police Suzanne was a close family friend. | |
| 08/1997 | 30 | Michael Gardiner is murdered. | |
| 10/1997 | 31 | Barry Lane was murdered. | |
| 11/1997 | 31 | Suzanne Allen disappeared | |
| 11/1997 | 31 | Thomas Trevilyan was murdered. | |

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| 08/1998 | 32 | Troy Youde was murdered. | |
| 09/17/1998 | 32 | Fredrick Brooks was murdered. | |
| 10/1998 | 32 | Police tap Bunting’s home phone | |
| 11/20/1998 | 32 | Elizabeth Haden was murdered. | |
| 05/09/1999 | 32 | David Johnson was murdered. | |
| 05/21/1999 | 32 | Bunting was arrested. | |
| 10/16/2002 | 35 | Bunting’s trial began. | |
| 09/08/2003 | 36 | Bunting was convicted of 11 counts of murder. Sentenced to life in prison. | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | White |
| Number of victims | | | 12 suspected, 11 convicted |
| Country where killing occurred | | | Australia |
| States where killing occurred | | | South Australia |
| Cities where killing occurred | | | Adelaide and Snowtown |
| Type of killer | | | Thrill Killer |
| Height | | | Short (all that was found) |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | 9/04/1966 |
| Location | | | Inala, Queensland, Australia |
| Birth order | | | 1st born |
| Number of siblings | | | None |
| XYY? | | | No |
| Raised by | | | Both Parents: Tom and Jan Bunting |
| Birth category | | | Only child |
| Parent’s marital status | | | Married |
| Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage? | | | No |
| Did serial killer spend time in a foster home? | | | No |
| Was serial killer ever raised by a relative? | | | No |
| Did serial killer live with a step-parent? | | | No |
| Family event | | | None |
| Age of family event | | | N/A |
| Problems in school? | | | N/A |
| Teased while in school? | | | N/A |
| Physically attractive? | | | No |
| Physical defect? | | | He has no sense of smell when he was born. |
| Speech defect? | | | No |
| Head injury? | | | No |
| Physically abused? | | | Yes; around 8 years old by friend’s older brother |
| Psychologically abused? | | | Yes; by his friend’s older brother |
| Sexually abused? | | | Yes; around 8 years old by friend’s older brother |
| Father’s occupation | | | N/A |
| Age of first sexual experience | | | Age 15 |
| Age when first had intercourse | | | Age of 15 and got her pregnant |
| Mother’s occupation | | | N/A |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | | | N/A |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | | | N/A |
| **Cognitive Ability** | | | |
| Highest grade in school | | | 11 |
| Highest degree | | | None |
| Grades in school | | |  |
| IQ | | |  |

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| Source of IQ information |  |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Branch |  |
| Type of discharge |  |
| Saw combat duty |  |
| Killed enemy during service? |  |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? | Yes, but only because they couldn’t afford to pay him at the crematorium. They thought he was a good worker. |
| Types of jobs worked | Age 20 he worked for a crematorium. Age 22 he worked at a SA Meat Corporation: slaughtering animals. |
| Employment status during series | None, because he was stealing money from his victims after their death. |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Veronika Tripp: First marriage in 1989 Elizabeth Harvey: Second marriage |
| Number of children | Four step-sons: Troy Youde, James Vlassakis, Adrian Vlassakis, and Kristoffer Vlassakis |
| Lives with his children | Adrian and Kristoffer Vlassakis lived with him and Mrs. Harvey more constantly than the other two. James lived with them for longer than Troy. Troy and James moved out when they got older. |
| Living with |  |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | Yes; During childhood Bunting tortured ants with acid. In late adulthood, he would kill and skin cats and dogs while making James Vlassakis watch. Sometimes  Bunting made James Vlassakis participated whether he wanted to or not. |
| Fire setting | N/A |
| Bed wetting | N/A |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | N/A |
| Abused alcohol? | N/A |
| Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)? | N/A |
| Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)? | N/A |
| Diagnosis | N/A |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | No, just tortured animals. No criminal crimes. |
| Spend time in jail? | No |
| Spend time in prison? | No |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 11 victims, but 12 bodies were found. Suzanne Allen’s murder became dropped due to the lack of evidence and claimed she died of natural causes, a heart attack. |
| Victim type | Pedophiles, homosexuals, cross dresser, heroin user and roommate, partners assisting in the crimes, mentally |

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|  | disabled, and some were relatives or associates of one of the accused. |
| Killer age at start of series | He was 25-years-old at the time of the first murder, but was turning 26 years two months later. |
| Date of first kill in series | August 1992 |
| Date of final kill in series | 5 /09/1999 |
| Gender of victims | Mostly males and one female |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | Thomas Trevilyan: 18; Fredrick Brooks: 18; Michael Gardiner: 19; Troy Younde:21; Clinton Tresize: 22; David Johnson: 24; Ray Davies: 26; Gavin Porter: 29; Garry O’Dwyer: 29; Elizabeth Haydon: 37; Barry Lane: 42 |
| Type of victim | Same as above in “Victim Type” |
| Method of killing | Torture that led to eventual strangulation by a rope or electrical cord |
| Weapon | Knives, Coils of rope, rolls of tape, rubber gloves, cloths, a Variac metallurgy tool that the killers used to give electric shocks to the genitals and other sensitive parts. |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type | N/A |
| Did killer have a partner? | Yes; Bunting was the leader of three other men. |
| Name of partner | Robert Wagner ‘Papa Smurf’, James Vlassakis, and Mark Haydon were the three main group members. However, Elizabeth Harvey, Thomas Trevilyan, and Barry Lane, each assisted in one of the murdered victims. |
| Sex of partner | The main group consisted of three males. Robert Wagner was a homosexual, while James Vlassakis and Mark Haydon were heterosexuals. |
| Relationship of partner | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • •  • | James Vlassakis was a step-son.  Robert Wagner started out as a neighbor and become a best friend of Bunting’s.  Mark Haydon and John met in a welding course and became good friends. John Bunting ended up dating Haydon’s sister and later on Haydon’s wife’s sister. | |
| Type of serial killer | Missionary, Organized Lust, and Contract Killer |
| How close did killer live? | Drove to crime |
| Location of first contact | Victim home, killer home, street, hospital, etc. |
| Location of killing | Victim’s home, Bunting’s home, Kersbrook, Australia, and at the Snowtown Bank. |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | |  |  | | --- | --- | | •  •  • | Suzanne Allen was claimed to be killed in her bathroom and was mutilated. Her body was buried in Buntings backyard.  Troy Youde was dragged out of his own bed by Bunting and his accomplices. At the time Youde was living at the 203 Waterloo Corner Rd  house. He was tortured and strangled in the  downstairs bathroom.  Michael Gardinear was killed by strangulation of a rope and burns were found on his scrotum. | |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • | Clinton Trezise was killed in Bunting’s home in the living room by being bashed in the head with a hammer. | |

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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | •  • | Ray Davies was killed in Bunting’s bathroom and was buried in his backyard. Davies was never reported missin.  Gavin Porter was killed in his car that was parked in Bunting’s driveway. His body was stored in a barrel in the bank vault. | |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? |  |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | Yes; giving electric shocks to sensitive parts (generally genitals) of the body, crushing toes with pliers, ears and nose burned with cigarettes, and one victim even had a sparkler inserted into his genitals and lit. After being tortured the victims were strangled and to make sure they were dead, someone would jump on their chest to get all of the remaining air out. |
| Stalked victims? | Only to get personal information to obtain financial gains from victim (after they were murdered). |
| Overkill? | No |
| Quick & efficient? | No, he tortured all of his victims except for one. |
| Used blindfold? | No |
| Bound the victims? | Yes, using handcuffs, electrical cord, and/ or duct tape over the mouth with a sock in it |
| After Death Behavior | |
| Sex with the body? | No |
| Mutilated body? | Yes; almost of the victims’ bodies were cut up with a knife and eight of them were placed in a barrel  containing acid. |
| Ate part of the body? | Bunting and Wagner fried up and ate parts of David Johnson’s flesh. |
| Drank victim’s blood? | No |
| Posed the body? | No |
| Took totem – body part | No |
| Took totem – personal item | Yes; from each victim personal information was taken in order to be able to access victim’s finances. These  included credit cards, photo IDs, social security numbers, and other items. |
| Robbed victim or location | After each victim was murdered, their property was taken over, such as a car or house, to gain more money. |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide | Thomas Trevilyan was the one victim who was left at the scene, because it was supposed to look like a suicide. He was found hanging from a tree in the Kersbook area. |
| Left at scene, hidden | No |
| Left at scene, buried | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • | Ray Davies: body was buried at Bunting’s  former house in his backyard (Waterloo Corner Rd, Salisbury North) after being strangled in the bathroom. | |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | No |
| Moved, buried | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • | Clinton Trezise: body was buried in a shallow grave at Lower Light | |
| Cut-up and disposed of | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • | All of his victims were cut-up and disposed of in Bunting’s backyard or a barrel that was later stored in the rented Snowtown bank. | |

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| Moved, to home | |  |  | | --- | --- | | • | Suzanne Allen was moved to Bunting’s home after being “found” at her house in the  bathroom. | |
| Sentencing | Supreme Court trail started on 10/14/2002 |
| Date killer arrested | 5/21/1999 |
| Date convicted | 9/08/2003  • Outstanding murder charges of Suzanne Allen were dropped on 5/7/2007 when jury could not reach a verdict |
| Sentence | Life imprisonment |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | N/A |
| Did serial killer confess? | Yes, but Bunting confessed after conviction (confessed & recanted). |
| Name and state of prison | E Division in Yatala Prison, South Australia’s Maximum Security Jail in Adelaide. |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | Still living |
| **References**  Advertiser. (2008). Evil, even as younger. Retrieved on November 5, 2008, from http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,17289866-2682,00.html  GMax. (2003). Australia’s worst serial killers of gays jailed for life. Retrieved on October 22, 2008, from http://www.gmax.co.za/look/10/29-ozpedokillers.html  Pudney, J. (2005).*The bodies in the barrels murders*. Austrailia: HarperCollins Publishers Pty Limited Group.  Supreme Court of Southern Australia. (2003). Reasons for rulings of the honourable Justice Martin. Retrieved on October 29, 2005, from   http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/sa/SASC/2003/251.html  Supreme Court of Southern Australia. (2004). Rv Bunting and Wagner SASC 235. Retrieved November 5, 2008, from http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgibin/sinodisp/au/cases/sa/ SASC/2004/235.html?query=john%20and%20bunting.  We looked on the library website on LexisNexis, Criminal Justice Abstracts and Periodicals, and Newspaper Source Plus. We also searched for books in the library about John Bunting but there were none. We also searched some search engines on the web and most articles that came up were just about the hearings. All of the above did not have sufficient or any information about John Bunting.  \*\*N/A= No information was able to be found.  Areas where we had trouble finding information on John Bunting:   1.Some of his childhood and family relations i.e. Parent’s occupation.  2.We could not find anything on Bunting psychological information, there was nothing mentioned about previous crimes, but we don’t know if there just was not any information about it.  3.Location of killings were not found for Barry Lane and Garry O’Dwyer,  4.We were not able to find the dates of the murders of Gavin Porter, Gary O’Dwyer. | |