



# Barrenjoey road

By Neil Mercer & Ruby Jones

First published in 2021

## Genre & subject

Women -- Crimes against

Missing persons -- New South Wales -- Northern Beaches (Sydney)

Murder -- Investigation -- New South Wales -- Northern Beaches (Sydney)

Rape -- Investigation -- New South Wales -- Northern Beaches (Sydney)

## Synopsis

Back in the 1970s, Sydney's Northern Beaches seemed like a slice of paradise to those lucky enough to live there ...Bordered on one side by the glistening blue of the Pacific, hemmed by pristine sandy coves, and on the other by the rugged bushland of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, it was the kind of place where everyone knew everyone. No wonder the area was known as 'the Insular Peninsula'. So, when popular local 18-year-old Trudie Adams disappeared one night while hitchhiking home from the surf club dance, her family, friends and community were devastated. It just seemed wrong that something so terrible could happen in a place so picturesque. But as police began to investigate, the underbelly of the peninsula was exposed. It was a place where surfers ran drugs home from Bali, teenagers hitchhiked everywhere due to a lack of public transport, predatory men prowled the streets, and countless young women were abducted and raped, crimes rarely reported or, if they were, rarely investigated. Inspired by the Walkley Award-shortlisted #1 podcast and acclaimed ABC TV series, and containing information never previously revealed, Barrenjoey Road is a compelling exposé of why the disappearance of Trudie Adams was never solved. It takes us all the way to the top - from a criminal perpetrator with a lifelong record and links to organised crime who was never formally accused, to police corruption at the highest level. A gripping expose of a notorious cold case 1978. An idyllic beachside community. A series of abductions and rapes. So what happened to Trudie Adams? The disappearance of 18-year-old Trudie Adams while hitchhiking home on Sydney's northern beaches in 1978 left her family and community devastated.

## Author biography

Walkley Award-winning investigative journalist Neil Mercer has been a broadcast and print journalist for more than 40 years. He has reported in the Canberra bureau of The Sydney Morning Herald and for News Corp in New York. In 1988 he joined the ABC's Four Corners, where he won a Walkley for his profile of convicted Whiskey Au Go Go killer James Finch. He has worked on Seven Network current affairs program Witness and Nine's 60 Minutes. He is the author of Fate, about the Belanglo State Forest murders.

## Discussion starters

- Did this book make you want to explore the subject matter more?
- What were your impressions on the author's style? Did you find the book easy to read, or a slog?
- Of all the information presented in the book, what has stayed you the most?
- What did you Google while reading the book?
- Did you agree with the author's conclusions? Where did you deviate?

## If you liked this book, you may also like...

*Catch and kill* by Ronan Farrow

*Till murder do us part* by James Patterson with Andrew Bourelle and Max DiLallo



If you are looking for something new to read try **NoveList!** It is a free database to help you find that perfect book. Visit [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library)

Author biography from Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Orwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell)), discussion starters from [www.litlovers.com/reading-guides](http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides) and read-a-likes from NoveList.