Dead woman may be victim of drunken payback

By ALISON BEVEGE

A WOMAN found dead beside a remote Territory highway yesterday may have been murdered in a drunken payback killing.

The body of the 27-year-old woman was found by the side of the Buntine Highway near the remote town of Kalkarindji about 7.30am.

Sources told the Sunday Territorian her head was bash- ed in with a rock and she might have been the victim of payback. The settlement has a population of about 140 people and lies 800km south of Darwin.

A source, who asked not to be named, said a large group of people came from nearby Lajamanu to the Aboriginal community Friday night, carrying with them hard alcohol.

“They brought strong grog, whisky and rum,” the source said. The alcohol escalated the situation, they said. It is not known whether the woman was from Kalkarindji or Lajamanu. “It will be a very volatile time around here for quite some time,” the source said.

NT Police said they suspect foul play but did not re- veal how the woman died.

Police, including detectives from Katherine drove to the remote scene to investigate yesterday. Detective Senior Sergeant Clayton Sims has asked the pub- lic to call police with information on 331 444.

Hells Angels were escorted by police as they made their way in to Darwin for their annual bike run yesterday

OUTLAW motorcycle gang the Hells Angels are starting to leave Darwin after their annual run yesterday.

About 40 bikes received a police escort as they did a lap of the Territory capital, in a much slimmer version of the expected 200-strong ride.

More were reportedly seen heading south along the Stuart Highway from the club’s headquarters in Howard Springs. The gathering of an estimated 200 gang members was relatively quiet.

Operation Sitara commander Wayne Harris said NT Police made two arrests. Two 25-year-old NSW bikies were taken into custody after allegedly bashing a man at a nightspot on Mitchell St.

Police would not say where it was but it is believed to be the Hunnytop strip club.

Witneses said there had been a fight at the club, with at least one man killed and knocked out cold.

A 27-year-old man was taken to hospital but para- medics were not called. Cdr Harris would not say what the man’s injuries were but said he had been released from hospital.

“It was a particularly cowardly and low assault,” Cdr Harris said.

He said one of the bikes, weighing 130kg, had as- saulted a man weighing 70kg. Bail was refused and the two Hells Angels were still in custody yesterday afternoon.

The arrests are the only two known since the gang hit town. They are expected to start leaving today.

“I’m extremely happy to see them go,” he said.

NT Police have repeatedly refused to say how much the massive police operation has cost, leaving some Territor- ians scratching their heads.

One such resident James Deligiasco said: “John McRoberts (Territory commissioner), can I meet with you Monday morning.”

“Can I ask as to why police are escorting big kids on bi- kes? Why are you and your team spending our hard- earned taxpayers’ cash on the hits.”

But Cdr Harris said the ar- rests showed why police pro- vided their response.

AN ILLEGAL drug that gives the perfect tan and boosts skin-darkening pigments is increasingly being shipped to Australia, a medical expert says.

Melanotan II has been nicknamed the “Barbie drug”, with tan addicts injecting it into their stomach or thighs to gain the perfect tan.

The peptide works by stimulating the production of skin-darkening pigments.

While creating an all-over tan and increasing sexual drive, the drug can cause depression, suppressed appetite, nausea, high blood pressure, facial flushing and panic attacks.

It has never undergone regu- lated testing to determine its long-term effects.

Despite this, the nation’s Customs and Border Protection has continued to see a slow in- crease in amounts of the drug being shipped to our shores.

Some 135 consignments of Melanotan-type products have been seized since 2000, peaking at 61 seizures last year.

But Australian Medical Association Queensland presi- dent Alex Markwell said that the real number of consignments that could be squeezing through the gaps or trafficked within the country were wor- ryingly unknown.

Two Lower Berrimah residents last year were charged after being flown to hospital following a fit.

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The 24-year-old man was taken to hospital but police stopped the hatchet near the Tennant Creek road

A MAN has been left with serious head injuries after his quad bike hit a fence yesterday afternoon.

The 24-year-old man came off his quad bike after the crash at the Howard Springs shops just before 4.30pm.

St John Ambulance opera- tions manager Craig Garr- away said the man had seri- ous head injuries.

Two ambulances at- tended and paramedics took the victim to hospital in a serious condition.

“He had a nasty lacer- ation to his head and cuts to the body,” Mr Garra- way said.

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Rider injured in quad bike fence smash

Two teenage hitchhikers ‘car-jacked good Samaritan’

TWO teenage girls allegedly car-jacked a kind-hearted, eld- erly woman at knifepoint in Tennant Creek.

NT Police said the 64-year-old woman gave the two 15-year-old teens a lift in her Mazda hatch- back. But they allegedly turned on her benefactor with a knife and stole her car.

The woman received minor injuries in the attack, a police spokesman said.

Superintendent Craig Bar- rett said the youths were caught yesterday afternoon when police stopped the hatch- back near the Tennant Creek road.

They were last night being questioned in custody.

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