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## Death of Outback Killer Reignites Hope in Long-Running Falconio Case

July 17, 2025

— Categories: Crime



The recent death of convicted killer Bradley Murdoch has revived hopes in the decades-long search for the body of British backpacker Peter Falconio. Law enforcement continues to pursue new leads, particularly after the reward for information was raised to \$500,000. Authorities believe Murdoch's death could be the turning point in this unsolved tragedy, potentially prompting new witnesses to come forward.

Peter Falconio disappeared in 2001 while traveling through the Australian outback with his girlfriend, Joanne Lees. Murdoch, an Australian convicted in 2005 for Falconio's murder,

was serving a life sentence without parole. However, despite his conviction, Falconio's remains have never been found. Murdoch consistently refused to cooperate with investigators, even after his sentencing.

Following Murdoch's death last month, the *Northern Territory Police (NTP)* have received a surge of public tip-offs. While officials declined to provide an interview to *9News*, citing the sensitive nature of ongoing investigations, sources suggest that the boosted reward is motivating some individuals who may have remained silent for over two decades.

Colleen Gwynne, a former chief investigator on the case, told *A Current Affair*, "Now that he's passed, perhaps someone may feel less intimidated or controlled by him to come forward, enticed by the reward that the Northern Territory Police offered."

Authorities maintain that the case remains open and active. While Murdoch took critical details to the grave, there is cautious optimism that someone close to him, perhaps a confidant, might now feel empowered to share what they know. Investigators continue to pursue every lead to finally bring closure to the Falconio family.

The Falconio case has remained one of Australia's most haunting criminal mysteries, both for its brutality and its unanswered questions. It also highlights the importance of continued vigilance by law enforcement and the public's role in solving cold cases. With new information potentially on the horizon, the NTP is urging anyone with knowledge to come forward.

For the Falconio family, justice remains incomplete. But with Murdoch no longer a looming threat, this moment could mark a long-awaited breakthrough.