

Fighting crime from the frontline

Readers gain insight how police provide answers

Book review | Andre Awadalla

GANGLAND killings, high profile murders and suspicious deaths – former homicide detective Charlie Bezzina has investigated them all. And now, with the publication of his new book *The Job-Fighting Crime from the Frontline*, readers can gain an insight into how police strive to solve crime and provide answers for the victims' families. Sunshine resident Bezzina, who spent 37 years on the force including 17 years in the homicide squad and now runs his own handyman business, said the main purpose of the book was to show the community the reality of a murder investigation.

"I find the community are ... very believing of what they see on TV," Bezzina said. "So this gives them an insight (into) the frustrations, the upsets you do have during an investigation and the stresses the police are basically under." Bezzina, who worked on many high-profile investigations including the killing of Melbourne gangland figure Alphonse Gangitano and the death of former Test cricketer David Hookes said one of his most memorable cases was the "Frankston serial killer" Paul Charles Denyer. "We worked on it (the investigation) for so long," Bezzina said. "But you're pulling out all stops



Former homicide detective Charlie Bezzina now leads a less dangerous life.

Picture: MICHELLE KELCEY N18BM403

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FORMER HOMICIDE DETECTIVE TURNED AUTHOR CHARLIE BEZZINA

investigations he did when he was able to make an arrest for the victim's family. "You're the one they look to for answers," Bezzina said. Born and raised in Melbourne's West, Bezzina said that as well as working as an investigator with internal investigations, the drug squad and the homicide squad, he had spent a large part of his career at police stations in the western suburbs – from Bacchus Marsh to Altona North and every station in between. "I loved working in the western suburbs because the people are so down to earth," he said. "There's no airs or graces." And Bezzina said he was still

proud of the area and enjoyed living there. "You get a bit despondent when other people have got this perception of what the western suburbs are like and it's an erroneous perception," he said. *The Job-Fighting Crime From the Frontline* by Charlie Bezzina with Ben Collins, Slattery Media Group. Bezzina will be speaking about his book with investigative journalist and radio host Rochelle Jackson at the Granary Cafe, 2 Devonshire Rd, Sunshine, on Wednesday, November 17 from 6.30pm-8pm. Tickets are \$25 and include a copy of *The Job*, finger food and a glass on arrival. To book call 9627 2686.

and the great relief when he made (his) admission ... was absolutely outstanding." But Bezzina said he still got "the same satisfaction" out of any of the

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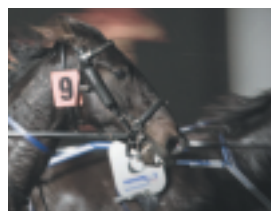
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