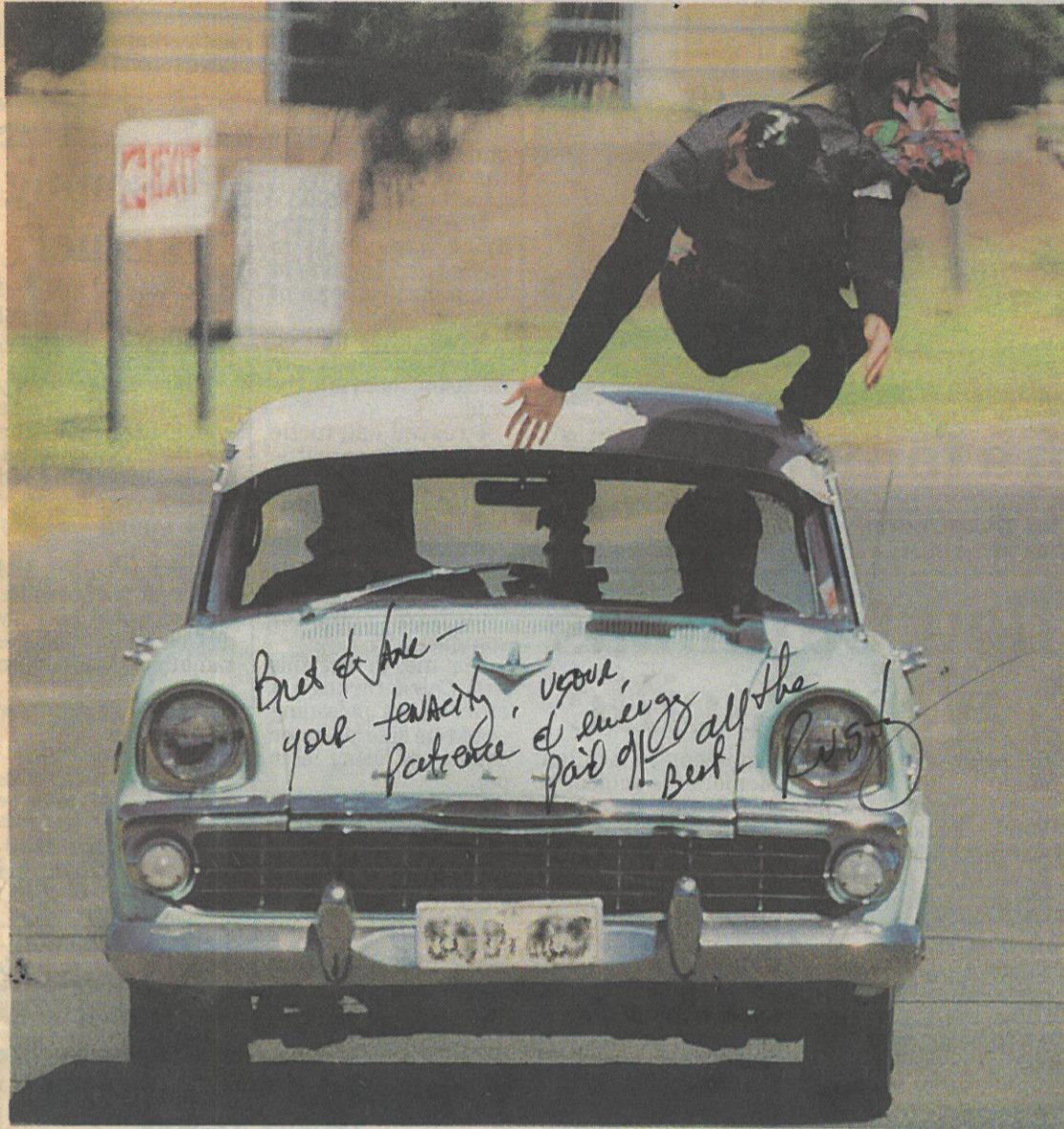


# 'This is how Cooke killed girl'



A Holden like the one Eric Cooke said he used in 1963 slams into a life-sized dummy in tests held this week flinging it up and over the sunshade, just as Cooke described. Pictures by ERNIE McLINTOCK.

John Button is not a killer, according to visiting US car crash expert William "Rusty" Haight.

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Mr Haight staged four spectacular crashes with dummy "pedestrians" in Claremont this week.

He said afterwards that the scientific tests had convinced him John Button had not run down and killed his girlfriend Rosemary Anderson in Shenton Park in 1963 - although he was jailed for her death.

Mr Button, who watched the gruesome tests, was in tears after the last crash.

He said he had been overwhelmed to see in seconds that the girl's death happened exactly the way described by serial killer Eric Edgar Cooke.

"To see it all come together like this it is obvious that it could not have been my car that killed Rosemary," he said.

"What Cooke said in his statements has all

come true today.

"He was not lying about running down Rosemary."

Mr Haight, who is employed by the University of Texas, is recognised as the world authority on pedestrian and cyclist crashes.



John Button was an emotional witness.

He was brought to Australia by the POST on the 37th anniversary of Rosemary Anderson's death, when she was 17, to re-in-

vestigate the crash that killed her.

It was Mr Button's 56th birthday.

Before the tests, Mr Haight said it was probable they could show whether or not Mr Button's Simca car had hit Rosemary.

But it was unlikely to show that Cooke had committed the crime in a Holden he stole that night.

Afterwards, however, he said his tests on three identical Simcas and one Holden convinced him of Mr Button's innocence and Cooke's guilt.

"It was a most excellent result from Mr Button's point of view," he said.

"From the test results, taken together with all the known facts, I can say that Cooke did commit this murder."

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After hitting a dummy, US crash expert Rusty Haight checks a Simca similar to the car police said John Button was driving when his girlfriend was killed.

## \$57 million tag on Perry Lakes housing

The carve-up of the Perry Lakes stadium site for high-density housing could earn the Cambridge council \$57 million.

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A council working group has a plan to develop the 15ha stadium site in Floreat, which is the state's athletics headquarters, for housing.

Supporting the move, Cambridge mayor Ross Willcock said it would meet demand in Floreat for small blocks, needed for the growing aged population.

This week he described the stadium, built in 1962 for the Commonwealth Games, as a white elephant.

Apart from the games, it has only once been full to its 30,000 seating capacity.

Mr Willcock said Cambridge could not afford to maintain what was a state sporting facility.

Despite an annual operating budget of \$280,000, the stadium is in very poor condition.

Signs warn athletes against using some parts of the track. The scoreboard, stadium seating and outbuildings are falling down.

The estimated cost of bringing it up to international sporting standards is \$40 million.

Mr Willcock said athletics was a small and specialised sport and the stadium land was greatly under-used.

### Outcry

"It is not a suitable facility to have in the area," he said.

"To do the maintenance required, including installation of lighting for TV broadcasts, would cost millions.

"Based on the outcry

from Subiaco when that happened there, the people in this area will not want that.

"We are not expecting too many objections, though there will always be those people who want it kept as parkland. "But we already have hundreds of hectares of that next door at Perry Lakes and we don't need any more."

An application is before the Minister for Planning, to rezone it from parks and recre-

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