

## CHAPTER 7 PRINCE HARRY

In 2003 Prince Harry is on his gap year visiting Australia and Africa before going to Sandhurst Military Academy, England. He attracts attention, lives through it and smiles. Prince Harry also works on a cattle station in the Australian outback.

Kensington Palace insists on high level security after an attack on Prince Charles in 1994 when he was in Sydney. Prince Charles was shot at and thankfully missed. No one wants a repeat experience now.

For Prince Harry's visit there is already twelve full-time protection officers, plus state police allocated plus the 'Select Squirrels' to guard Prince Harry from the water in case a vessel is used to disrupt his climb. This is in addition to the water police boats. The publicity has caused a public outcry due to the cost. The surveillance from the cruiser on The Harbour is kept confidential with only the hierarchy and other security teams including the water police being aware of their presence.

Jack sarcastically thinks to himself, 'What's the problem with him climbing the bridge?'

Glorious views are seen from the Bridge (sometimes called 'the coathanger'), either at sunrise or sunset so Prince Harry's climb is scheduled to commence at twilight. The security team guarding him is constantly in place. Prince Harry, two guards, two climb leaders and an organiser for the event complete the climb. They head off on the three and a half hours experience taking in the 360-degree panorama view of Sydney as they journey to the summit. The climb starts on the catwalks below the road-deck until they reach the South-East Pylon. Then they climb four ladders to the start of the upper arch. The traffic is busy so the group are immersed in the traffic noise while moving along the outer arch of the Bridge.

The security teams are all watching for any possible trouble. There is an enormous crowd now gathered around the base, the Opera House and other viewing points near the bridge to try and see Prince Harry ascend and make his way back down. The climb leaders, guards and especially

Prince Harry, are all enjoying this special climb, the weather is warm and still as the sun slowly ascends behind the Opera House.

At the summit the group, relax and chat taking in the views and giving Prince Harry a chance to ask questions in private, take in the captivating views from the Bridge and enjoy every minute. There is little privacy about this experience for him. Once ready to move on reluctantly, they cross the spine of the Bridge to the Darling Harbour side gradually and carefully making their way back down to the Climb Base.

While the Prince is on the Bridge the cruiser with the 'Select Squirrel' guys closely focuses on watching Prince Harry constantly using binoculars to check for any boats close by. One boat seems to be hanging around as close as it can get to the Darling Harbour side near where the group will descend so the 'Select Squirrels' put the cruiser between this boat and the shore keeping just a casual attitude happening on deck not wanting to make people aware of the real reason for them being there. The man and woman on the boat they are watching bring out high power cameras and start taking shots of the group descending. Ray drives the cruiser and pulls up beside the boat so Jack can chat to them.

Jack shows them his I.D. while asking what they are doing and recording details of the boat for potential future identification. The boat moves on without dispute while continuing to take photos as they move away.

A press conference with Prince Harry has been organised so security walk with him to a pre-arranged secure, private area. Prince Harry is still on a 'high' from the climb, wanting to do it all again. Little does he know it will be fifteen years before he will be back with his beautiful bride Meghan Markle. The televised interview takes just a few minutes and then Prince Harry heads off to his accommodation with his private security team.

Ray, Jack and the other guys on the cruiser make their way back to Pier 8, pack up their equipment after sitting around putting their notes and report together with full details of the successful day's events. Ray delivers all the equipment and hands in their report back at The Rocks Police Station. The guys have to say goodbye to each other and go their own way looking forward to their next joint assignment which are now

scheduled for the last weekend of each month and any public holidays.

Jack checks his flight times and still has four hours before his plane takes off so wants to head to the Star Casino. He checks with the other guys if anyone wants to kill some time at the Casino and help him try to find any dirt on the creeps who kicked him out last time. They chuckle but no one is free so he heads off alone. One of the guys mentioned he'd heard money was being laundered at the Casino and suggests Jack keeps an eye out for suspicious dealings. They share another chuckle.

'Great idea.' Thinks Jack, he would love to catch the Casino breaking the law. Off to the Casino he goes, to spend time on 'serious undercover' work. Jack figures the guards won't remember him, it's been a while and he's cleaned up, dressed well, also its daytime when there is less trouble about. He heads straight up to the entrance, smiles at the security team and walks in, heads for the men's toilet while checking out the entire layout. The reception immediately in front of him and the cashier to the left. There are lovely leather couches with a collection of magazines stacked neatly on a side table.

After a few minutes in the gents to think about his plan he walks out and heads for the couch, sits down, checks the time and picks up a magazine as if waiting for someone. He has positioned himself so he can watch the activity at the cashiers.

Interesting, mainly guys go to the cashier with a wad of money. Some keep it in shopping bags, in their pockets, in their zip up boots. All sorts of places on their bodies. Present the money, of any tender, mostly Australian, Euro or Chinese currency along with details of their account to the cashier. Sometimes they will ask for chips and sometimes not, just 'topping' up their account. Could this be dirty money and from overseas, wonders Jack. Seems feasible, there are no questions asked. Just add the funds to your account, come back whenever, take out cash and maybe some chips for gambling and all done. The Casino moves the funds to banks or merely keeps it in circulation, Jack is aroused.

He is astounded at the ease of this process and wonders why this possible money laundering has not been spotted. He is not close to the action anymore so not up-to-date with what the cops are covering and only speculation on his part.

Two hours have passed so he needs to head to the airport. He goes out into Pyrmont Street and waits at the taxi stand. Three cabs pull up and he is second in the queue behind a group of Asian men, Jack gets into the cab behind them. He recognises these men from the tiny golden dragon stitched on each of their black ties which he first saw when the group exchanged funds at the Casino cashiers. Now they are carrying, rifle bags with their luggage.

The cabs drive one behind the other to the Sydney airport about thirty minutes away. Jack still has over an hour before his domestic flight and decides to follow the Asian men, intrigued by their behaviour and luggage. The Asian group walk past the international gates and enter a 'private' area which leads to a large plane marked only with a small gold dragon on the side of the pilot's cabin. Jack waits twenty minutes, while watching these guys he remembers hearing about overseas high rollers coming into the country to gamble as well as spend a few days on organised hunting tours, mainly for native animals. He recalls being told they check in with Immigration and are short term tourists in the country for two weeks which allows them to have a visa providing them with a gun license. Jack decides from what he has observed they are probably not breaking the law. Time is running out and he needs to catch his flight. He walks past an attractive Asian airline hostess so turns his head to watch her. She walks over to the Asian men and then they follow her to the waiting plane.

While travelling back to South Australia his imagination puts together an elaborate plan relating to Chinese drug money, laundering, visas, illegal entry into the country, bribery and anything else he can devise. Then ponders on who he should discuss his suspicions with, he thinks carefully. Can't decide so let's this convoluted criminal activity scheme sit in the back of his mind. The plane touches down in Adelaide and Jack gets back to reality heading for his temporary housing.

Back in the shared house he gets ready for work the next day and wants to check out his new home, do his chores and settle back. At the end of his shift he picks up The Advertiser, Adelaide's main newspaper.

The front page covers the recent shootings outside the courthouse. This incident nearly ended much worse, so the newspaper took the

opportunity to cover the history of the changes to Australian law. After the 1996 Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania in which 35 people were killed and 23 wounded the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) is introduced driven by the then Prime Minister, The Hon. John Howard. The gunman at Port Arthur reportedly asked the police, 'How many did I get?'

These new laws are uniform across the country and ban rapid-fire guns from civilian ownership except under certain, introduce restricted licences, and establish a government buyback of semi-automatic and pump-action rifles and shotguns. All guns must be individually registered. All sales of guns must record a change in ownership using the same method across all states. It is estimated more than 700,000 guns were removed and destroyed.

Not long after these laws commence the police seize a massive cache of guns in the Adelaide Hills and when the serial numbers are checked they discover the firearm owners did not abide by the new gun laws. The guns were hidden and not checked in during the 1996-97 change to laws. This not surprising discovery highlighted a new 'Grey Market' involving illegal firearms, mainly shotguns and rifles being kept for crime and stored in sheds or houses, waiting to be stolen.

In 2004 the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Firearm Trace Program (NFTP) is established to assist police in determining the history of seized firearms. The Program aimed also at 'determining the method of diversion to the illicit market through the collection and use of firearm dealer records. Tracing by itself rarely solves a crime but it can over time accumulate data, which can identify regulatory or policy vulnerabilities.' (From an ACIC statement)

In later years research would produce data proving the significant downturn in mass killings in Australia.

The newspaper makes the comments regarding the police reaction outside the Courthouse during this latest instance, 'Police managed to contain the gunman immediately after he shot his ex-wife and her solicitor, so no other people injured. He was arrested and taken away. The police did not make any comment at the time.' End of article. However, the Inspector calls Jack into his office to check if Jack has any additional

information not contained in his report. Jack only says he was too far away to prevent the shooting. Jack was able to reach the shooter and disarm him in time to prevent him from causing further harm.

To conform with the Incident Report after a firearms incident a routine medical plan is implemented for Jack to see the police medical officer. After the shooting the usual checks were undertaken for the Incident Report. The police firearms are taken and analysed to see how many shots were fired, Jack's fingers and arms examined for shot residue and hands swabbed, the uniforms they were wearing are bagged, the bullets are located, and these projectiles have numbers on them to identify whose gun they came from. There were no unusual findings or discrepancies following these investigations.

Meanwhile Lila started at Glenelg Primary School. They continue sharing the arrangements to mind Lila after school. Jill and the grandparents are in a regular routine with Lila and Jack fits in when he is in Adelaide and has some down time. Jack and Jill manage their working lives and have little contact with each other when at home. Jack spends a lot of time away working in Sydney and has his parents help look after Lila while he is away.

When they do have time together Jack and Lila enjoy playing their games, riding bikes, having Lila's friends over to play in their makeshift gyms, or go for bike rides around the area. Lila and her friends hang-out in the backyard, enjoy the trampoline, chat and eat, always hungry after school. Lila and Jill have plenty of time together so Jill has a huge influence on her child's attitudes and thinking. Rarely all of them share time as a family apart from a weekly meal if Jack is home. Jill keeps Lila close to her.

The grandparents have their concerns about Jack and Jill's marriage but don't speak much about the situation and keep close to Jill, blaming Jack for drinking too much and his fiery temper leading to the marriage heading for a disaster. They all live through the situation for a few years and this unhealthy lifestyle impacts on all of them. Vicki starts to show signs of early dementia and John is easily agitated and aggressive. Jill simply bides her time till she sees an opportunity to return to Sydney when Lila is due to start secondary school.