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Was Somerton Man a US spy who had a secret love child with an Adelaide nurse? New evidence may be about the break open the enduring mystery of a body washed up on a beach nearly 70 years ago

- Mystery surrounding 'Somerton Man' could be broken open by new details
- Professor investigating the death believes the man had a child in Australia
- Other researchers also believe evidence proves the man was an American
- Mystery after dead man's body washed up on a beach in Adelaide in 1948

By [LIAM QUINN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA](#)

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One of Australia's most mysterious cold cases could be broken open by fresh evidence after almost 70 years, as details suggest the 'Somerton Man' may be an American and the father of an Australian ballet dancer.

It was also revealed the man, who was found dead on a beach in South Australia in 1948, may have fathered a child with an Adelaide nurse.

University of Adelaide professor Derek Abbott believes Jo Thomson, otherwise known as Jestyn, had a child with the man.

Scroll down for video



An unidentified body, who has become known as the Somerton Man, washed up on a beach 67 years ago

'I'm not alone in believing she knew who the Somerton Man was - I think just about every policeman involved in this case has the same opinion,' Professor Abbott told Daily Mail Australia.

'Moreover, I believe it likely that she had his child.'

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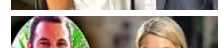
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Could a bkie's son



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Mr Abbott believes the pair had a secret relationship, due to the location of where the dead man's body was found and the fact her phone number was scribbled on a piece of paper found in his pocket.

Ms Thomson died in 2007, and denied knowing the Somerton Man until her death. However, she conceded to friends in her later years she was the nurse in the case. Robin Thomson died in 2009, according to the professor.



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This pictures shows how it is believed Jo Thomson would have looked in 1948

'Her son, Robin, was over a year old in 1948 when the Somerton Man died. She was single and did not get married until 1950...the list goes on. There are a number of factors,' he said.

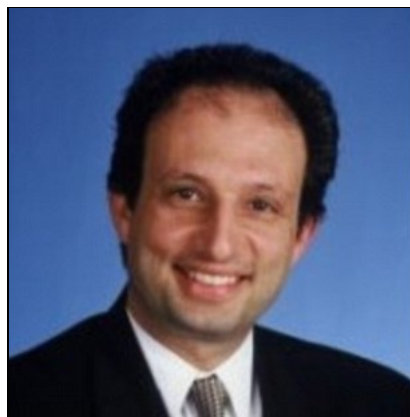
'She would have fallen pregnant to the Somerton Man in September or October of 1946.'

Police dubbed a body washed up on Somerton Beach in Adelaide's inner-southern suburbs as Somerton Man when it was found early in the morning on November 30, 1948. He was 'well-dressed' and police determined he died of unnatural causes.

But there was nothing on the body to indicate the man's identity, and the mystery has endured to this day.

Mr Abbott also cited a rare, hereditary dental condition, and odd behaviour from Ms Thomson when interviewed by police.

Another theory suggesting the Somerton Man may be Mr Thomson's father was his muscular legs, similar to those a ballet dancer would have. Mr Thomson went on to perform with the Australian Ballet and Royal New Zealand Ballet.



University of Adelaide professor Derek Abbott has been one of the leading investigators into the Somerton Man case

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Son of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith



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Now that's brotherly love! Cool teen Brooklyn Beckham spends his weekend at the top shop with his three-year-old sister Harper
Spend the day shopping



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Rumer Willis shows off her amazing figure in green thigh-high split dress as she joins forces with leggy Jenna Dewan-Tatum at star-studded event

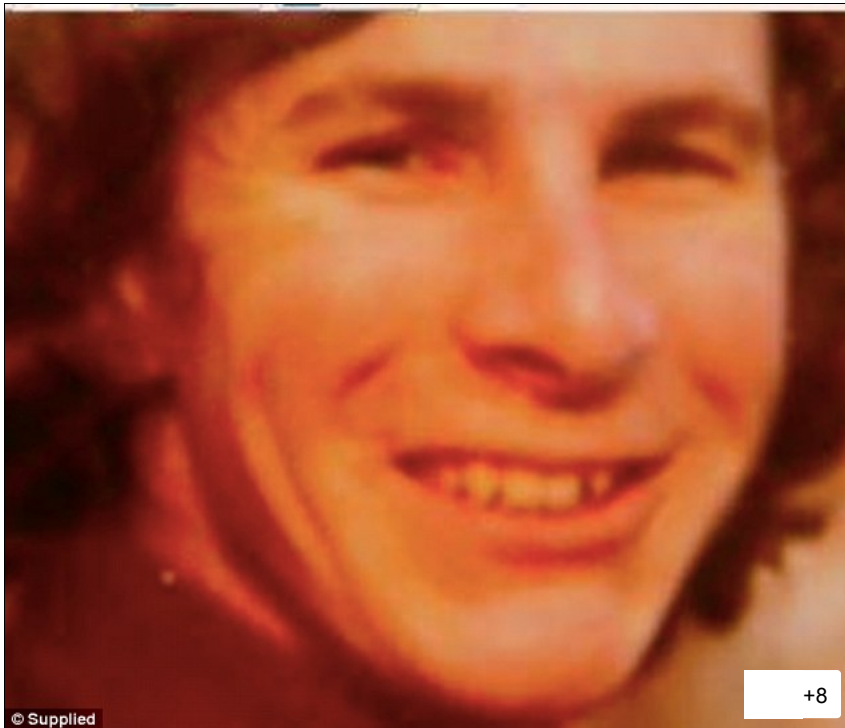


Still got that spark! Cate Blanchett and husband of 17 years Andrew Upton pack on the PDA as they enjoy passionate embrace
Married for 17 years



Inside the \$600-a night Maldives hideaway Mark Wright and Michelle





Robin Thomson shared a rare dental condition with the Somerton Man, according to experts

In 2012, the professor commissioned a painting of Ms Thomson, in the hope someone who knew her would come forward and provide crucial information.

The Somerton Man was found about five minutes from Ms Thomson's home.

The potential murder has fascinated true crime fans and conspiracy theorists for more than six decades, largely thanks to a number of 'codes' linked to a Persian poetry book found in a doctor's car.

A piece of paper torn from the book was found in the Somerton Man's pocket. It also had Ms Thomson's phone number written on the back.



Robin Thomson was also a ballet dancer, pictured rehearsing for rehearsing Coppélia in 1968

The scrap of paper had 'Tamám Shud,' meaning 'ended' or 'finished' in Persian, printed on it.

Some believe this to be proof he was a spy or double agent that was executed - and that Ms Thomson may have also been a spy.

However, Mr Abbott dismissed the Hollywood-styled theories.

Keegan retreated to for their honeymoon... which boasts a private lagoon and two beaches



Jennifer Garner shares a hearty laugh with female friend after shrugging off rumors her marriage to Ben Affleck may be on the rocks



Rumer Willis goes hell for white leather as she shows off her lean dancer's legs in tights for DWTS Tour practice



Britney Spears dotes on her sons Sean and Jayden as they enjoy a relaxing day at home in new Instagram snap



Pasta la vista, baby! Arnold Schwarzenegger, 67, dines out with younger girlfriend Heather, 40, as they enjoy a night in Rio



Doctor Who star Jenna Coleman stuns in off-the-shoulder dress as she watches Prince Harry at the polo
With her locks styled into a shoulder length bob



'Family time!' Molly Sims celebrates her niece's birthday in heartwarming Instagram snaps



Like what you see? Kanye West grins as he checks out the models in college fashion show... before giving a speech to graduating class



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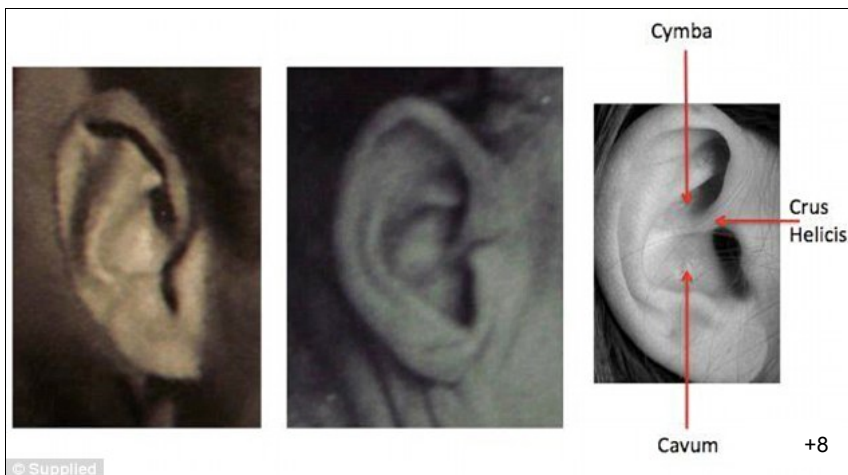


No hair here! Fuzz-free Miley Cyrus shows off her lithe frame in bikini-clad advert... after proudly displaying unshaven armpits on social media



'I'm fitter in my 40s than ever': The Biggest Loser's Alison Braun reveals impressive results of 66kg weight loss... and says she wakes at 5am to train





Compared: Robin Thomson's ear (left), the Somerton Man's ear (centre), and a normal ear on the right. The upper hollow, called the 'cymba' is unusually deep and enlarged in the first two photos

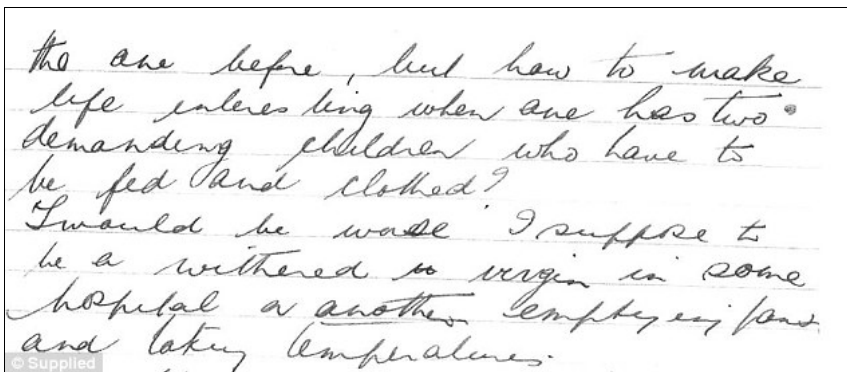
New developments in one of the nation's biggest mysteries



'I would be surprised if they turned out to be true,' he said.

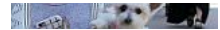
'I think this is a love story not a spy one, and one of jilted love. Anything is possible, but I don't find the spy scenario plausible.

'The 'code' is nothing like a professional spy code. He may have just been jotting letters trying to solve a brainteaser in newspaper for all we know.'



Ms Thomson wrote a letter in 1957 that reads: '...but how to make life interesting when one has two demanding children who have to be fed and clothed?' Researchers cite this as evidence

Getting ready for the big day? Jennie Garth and her fiancé enjoy shopping day in LA... after revealing wedding is 'coming soon'



Ryan Gosling gets his hands dirty as he pumps his own petrol at a filling station in LA. The handsome actor attempted to appear low-key in blue trainers



What a page turner! Hilary Duff shows off her toned figure in olive green leggings while clutching an armful of magazines



No risky business here! Reese Witherspoon is elegant as she wears a blouse and demure floral skirt at the Produced By conference



Girls' day out! Padma Lakshmi goes make-up free as she bonds with daughter Krishna on shopping trip in LA



Little Miss Polka Dot! Abigail Breslin wears quirky pink and black spotted dress at BookCon in NYC



Newlyweds Amy Adams and Darren Le Gallo hold hands with their daughter Aviana on family shopping trip



Hollyoaks beauty Jorgie Porter looks stylish in an ivory gilet over a lacy cream skirt as she steps out for a lavish meal with pals



Mindy Kaling shows off shapely legs in a mini-skirt as she takes the plunge in a green blazer at book signing



British fashion designer John Galiano meets rabbi as part of rehab plan: Scheme is part of his treatment following drunken anti-Semitic rant



She's a part of the family! Robin Thicke, 38, and girlfriend April Love Geary, 20, take his son Julian grocery shopping after Paris getaway



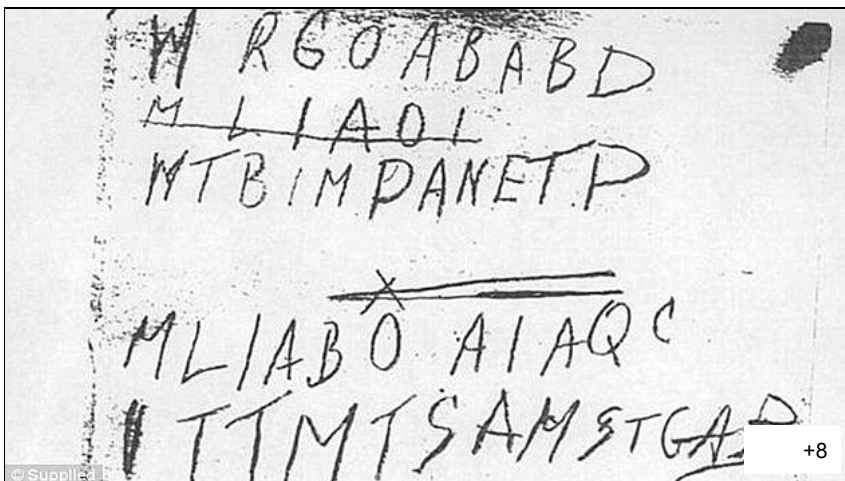


St Corantyn's mental health clinic on East Terrace, Adelaide, where Ms Thomson worked from the late 1960s to 1970s

The professor's comments come as a group investigating the incident said it thinks evidence proves the Somerton Man was American.

The group listed a number of reasons for its theory on a crowdfunding website, including the stripes on his tie being slanted in 'the US style', his jacket being 'determined to be of American origin', and the aluminium comb he was carrying.

Mr Abbott said DNA testing could be done to help finally shed light on the mystery.



The codes found in a book in an Adelaide doctor's car, which have been linked to the Somerton Man

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Will be the artistic director for the collection



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'My girls watching the game!' Dan Osborne shares cute snaps of Jacqueline Jossa and daughter Ella as they cheer on Arsenal in FA Cup final



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The 45-year-old has been busy with her band



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The lovebirds stepped out as a couple



He's a super husband! Adam Sandler gives wife Jackie a sweet kiss during PDA-filled outing in LA



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A present-day photo of the unit in Moseley Street where Jo Thomson lived in 1948 with her child Robin. The Somerton Man was found dead a short 5 min walk from this place, with her five-digit phone number

'If we want to establish that a descendent of Robin is related to the Somerton Man, this can be done by extracting the Somerton Man's DNA after an exhumation and comparing the two,' he said.

'If we want to identify the Somerton Man himself, this is a different issue. The way we would do that is find descendants of his cousins by putting his DNA data on a genealogical DNA database.

We could then trace those cousins back to a common ancestor and then work forward to find the Somerton Man. We know this works because this is exactly the technique use by genealogists who specialise in finding an adopted child's real parents.'

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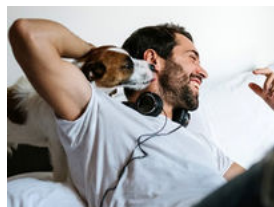
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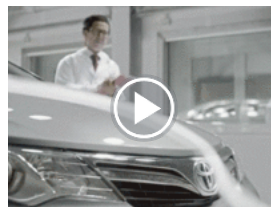
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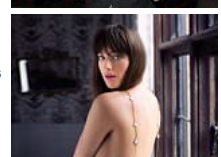
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The 30-year-old actress appeared nothing less than poised



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