

Overview

1. On the evening of Friday, the 21/07/1989 the missing person, now presumed deceased Ross Bradley WARREN (DOB: 26/10/1964), left his workplace at WIN4, Wollongong after reading the weather at the end of the 6pm news. WARREN drove to Sydney in his brown Nissan Pulsar NSW registration N2C783. Sometime between 8:00pm and 9:00pm he arrived at his friend Craig ELLIS' home at [REDACTED] Albert Street Redfern.
2. About 10:30pm WARREN left's ELLIS' home and drove to Oxford Street in Darlinghurst where he met with a WIN4 colleague, Phillip ROSSINI. WARREN and ROSSINI visited several bars and nightclubs along the Oxford Street strip, before going their separate ways around 2am on Saturday the 22/07/1989, where ROSSINI saw WARREN driving his vehicle on Oxford Street in an easterly direction towards Paddington. This was the last known sighting of WARREN.
3. On the morning of Saturday, the 22/07/1989, ELLIS awoke to find that WARREN hadn't returned home. Mildly concerned ELLIS and his then partner; Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS commenced a preliminary search for WARREN, with no success.
4. On Sunday night, the 23/07/1989, ELLIS and SAUCIS attended Paddington Police Station to report WARREN missing. Following this report, the pair attended Marks Park/Mackenzie's Point, Bondi where they located WARREN's vehicle in Kenneth Street, Tamarama. Their concerns grew and they returned to Paddington Police Station to apprise police of their discovery.
5. The following morning, the 24/07/1989, ELLIS located WARREN's keys at the base of the cliffs on the southern side of Mackenzie's Point. WARREN's disappearance was originally investigated by Detective Sergeant Kenneth BOWDITCH of Paddington Detectives. BOWDITCH surmised that WARREN slipped off the rocks at Mackenzie's Point, fell into the water and drowned.
6. In 2001, Operation Taradale was established to investigate the suspicious disappearance of WARREN. This investigation also incorporated the suspicious disappearance of Gilles MATTAINI (DOB: 25/10/1958) on the 15/09/1985 and the death of John RUSSELL (DOB: 28/11/1957) on the 23/11/1989. The investigation identified that Marks Park was known as a 'gay beat', and was frequented by men engaging in anonymous sexual encounters with other men. It was further discovered that numerous assaults and robberies occurred there and, on one instance, a murder in 1990.
7. On the 09/03/2005, during the inquest into WARREN's death, the NSW Senior Deputy State Coroner Milledge found ***"That Ross Bradley WARREN died in Sydney on or about 22 July 1989. Whilst the cause and manner of death are unknown, I am satisfied that the deceased was a victim of homicide perpetrated by person or persons unknown."***

Background

Personal details

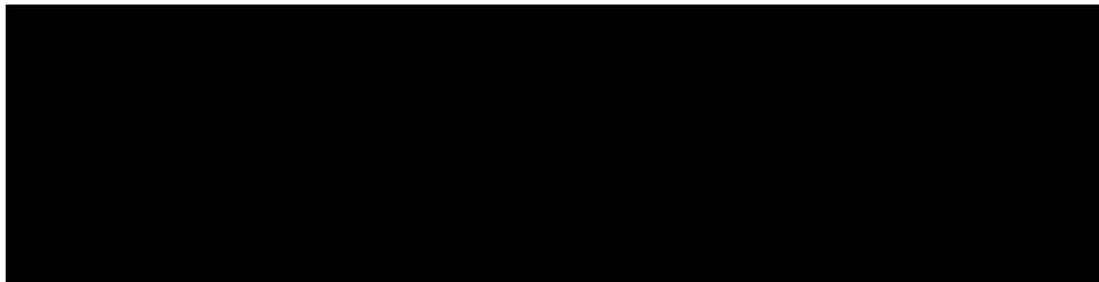
8. At the time of his disappearance, Ross Bradley WARREN was a 25 years old, (DOB: 26/10/1964) homosexual male. WARREN was living in a unit at [REDACTED] Smith Street, Wollongong. He was

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employed as a newsreader for the WIN4 television station in Wollongong.¹ WARREN was not involved in a relationship at the time of his disappearance.

9.



10. Ross was the eldest of three children. [REDACTED] Ross's younger sister Kelli-Maree (DOB: [REDACTED]), [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ross' younger brother Craig (DOB: [REDACTED]). Early on in Ross' life the WARREN's moved between Queensland and New South Wales before resettling in Queensland (when Ross was around twelve years old). [REDACTED]
11. WARREN attended Miami High in Surfers Paradise for his secondary education. He was very studious and achieved the dux of his final year of schooling (year 12). It was during Year 12, WARREN enrolled in a radio/TV announcer's course in Brisbane. He achieved a top six rating in that course. After high school, WARREN completed one year of Law at Queensland University, Brisbane but decided it wasn't a career path he wanted to pursue. WARREN instead opted for a career in media.³
12. In 1984, at the age of nineteen years old WARREN 'came out' to his parents as being a homosexual, this followed him being caught by Queensland Police engaging in sexual acts with another male in a toilet block at Broadbeach, Queensland. WARREN spent the night in jail and when he came home he told his parents what had happened. Kay WARREN explained in her statement to Police in 2017 that she recalled Ross being very upset and embarrassed about the incident. WARREN's parents were extremely shocked to learn of his homosexuality. This was because in high school, WARREN had girlfriends. Initially Kay WARREN took Ross to doctors to seek professional advice regarding his homosexuality. Kay stated WARREN was quite willing to see whether he could "change" his sexuality. Kay further stated she took him to see a psychologist, Dr Peter DOW on the Gold Coast (now deceased) who examined WARREN and found that there was no medication that could "help". Kay WARREN surmised that once she and her husband, Alan, accepted Ross' sexuality, Ross would have accepted it.⁴ Craig WARREN learnt of his brother's sexuality around the period of 1987 to 1988. Craig stated he and Ross were at home and Ross told him he was gay. Craig doesn't recall having a big reaction to this and stated he had no issue with Ross being gay.⁵
13. Although WARREN did not publicly discuss his sexuality, close friends and close work associates were aware of it. The reason WARREN did not disclose the fact he was a homosexual was due to concerns he had about his future in television, if it became known he was gay and that may have

¹ OD – 249 – WARREN acceptance of employment at WIN 29/04/1987

² ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli CHUTER

³ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁴ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁵ ST – 266 – Statement of Craig WARREN

hindered his career progression.^{6 7} WARREN's ex-partners stated that WARREN was very conservative about displaying his homosexuality. WARREN wouldn't display affection in public or associate with a partner in gay clubs. This was due to him being concerned about someone recognising him as a TV personality. WARREN was very career driven and didn't want anything to impact on his future.

Employment history

14. WARREN commenced his career in the media industry at Northern Rivers Television (NRTV) in Lismore, NSW, in 1983, as an assistant cameraman. From there, WARREN transferred from Lismore to the Gold Coast after NRTV opened a studio there. In 1985 WARREN landed a role as a newsreader with a local TV station in Mount Isa, Queensland. He then moved to NSW and read the news for a local TV station in Wagga Wagga. WARREN spent approximately a year working in Wagga Wagga.⁸
15. On the 18/05/1987, WARREN commenced his final role, which was with WIN4 Television Network in Wollongong (located at Television Avenue, Mt St Thomas). Originally employed as a Producer and On-Air host, WARREN's salary was \$400 per week with a weekly clothing allowance of \$45.⁹ WARREN progressed to reading the weather at the end of the weekday evening news broadcast, which aired between 6:00pm to 6:30pm. This was filmed and broadcast live from the WIN studio. WARREN would usually leave at the completion of the news broadcast.^{10 11} He would also read the general news each Sunday evening at 6.00pm. WARREN would commence his shift every Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm.¹² WARREN's weekday shifts would generally commence at 10:00am. His duties would involve writing the weather report in his office, which was in a portable demountable. WARREN shared this office space with colleagues Danny MITROVIC, Geoff PHILLIPS and Ross McALEAR; although this would change frequently as people were constantly moving offices. At this time WARREN was actively seeking employment elsewhere with the intention of working with one of the bigger television networks in Sydney.^{13 14} WARREN was ambitious, and wanted to move onto a major network.¹⁵ Terry MOORE (News Director at WIN when WARREN disappeared), stated the turnover at WIN was around twelve to eighteen months before people would move on and change studio locations. WIN was considered as an inroad to getting into the Sydney Television Stations.¹⁶ At the time of his disappearance, WARREN would have been at WIN for over two years. This would have been the average period of time for an individual to seek a change and progress their career.

⁶ ST – 7 – Statement of Kerry KINGSTON

⁷ ST – 140 – Statement of Susie ELELMAN

⁸ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/06/2017)

⁹ OD – 249 – WARREN letter of acceptance of employment at WIN4 29/04/1987

¹⁰ ST – 248 – Statement of Danny MITROVIC

¹¹ OD – 250 – Duties of Ross WARREN

¹² ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

¹³ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN Statement (28/06/2017)

¹⁴ ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli CHUTER

¹⁵ ST – 140 – Statement of Susie ELELMAN

¹⁶ ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

Driving History

16. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) records indicate that WARREN was the holder of a NSW three-year unrestricted drivers licence, number 6814DU. This was issued on the 21/05/1987 and the expiry date was, 13/05/1990. WARREN was the registered owner of a brown coloured Nissan Pulsar, NSW registration NZC783. The vehicle's registration expired on the 20/06/1990.¹⁷ WARREN's parents bought this vehicle for him when he got his newsreader position in Mount Isa.

Social behaviour

17. WARREN was not known to consume large amounts of alcohol. When he did drink his favourite alcoholic beverage was Ouzo and Coke.¹⁸

WARREN preferred to go out in Sydney as he stated the nightlife in Wollongong was boring (Investigators believe that by attending gay bars and clubs in Sydney others would not recognise him).²¹ WARREN was known to be a strong swimmer and liked the beach.²²

Finances

18. In 1989, WARREN's weekly income was around \$445. The available information indicates that WARREN had an ANZ bank account.²³ WARREN's also had a VISA credit card. This was located in his wallet, after it was found in his vehicle. The expiry date on this card was July 1991. Also located in his wallet was an ANZ transaction receipt for the withdrawal of \$300 on the 21/07/1989 (It is unknown which account this transaction occurred from).²⁴ There is no information to suggest WARREN had any outstanding debts or loans. He wasn't struggling with money and he could support himself.²⁵ Inquiries conducted in 2001 by Operation TARADALE detectives revealed that WARREN's bank records had been destroyed.

Criminal History

19. WARREN did not have a recorded criminal history in the state of New South Wales.

¹⁷ OD – 43 – RTA Certificate of ownership NZC 783

¹⁸ ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli CHUTER

¹⁹ ST – 271 – Statement of Ken MARSH

²⁰ ST – 17 – Statement of Greg FERGUSON

²¹ ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli CHUTER

²² ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

²³ ST – 192 – Affidavit of Deborah DIMMOCK from ANZ

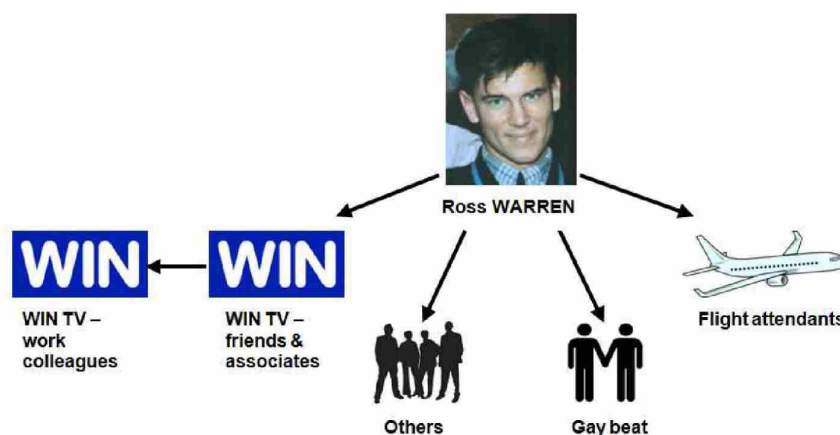
²⁴ IN – 188 – Receipt submitted to Document Examiners

²⁵ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

20. However, as stated, WARREN had one charge for the offence of Gross Indecency. This occurred on 25/11/1984 in the suburb of Broadbeach, Queensland, the limited information obtained is that WARREN was caught by Police engaging in sexual acts with another male in a toilet block. WARREN told arresting Police he did not know this male before meeting him in the toilet. WARREN was subsequently sentenced to two years' Probation and to receive psychiatric treatment as direction, Supervision Court, Mount Isa.²⁶

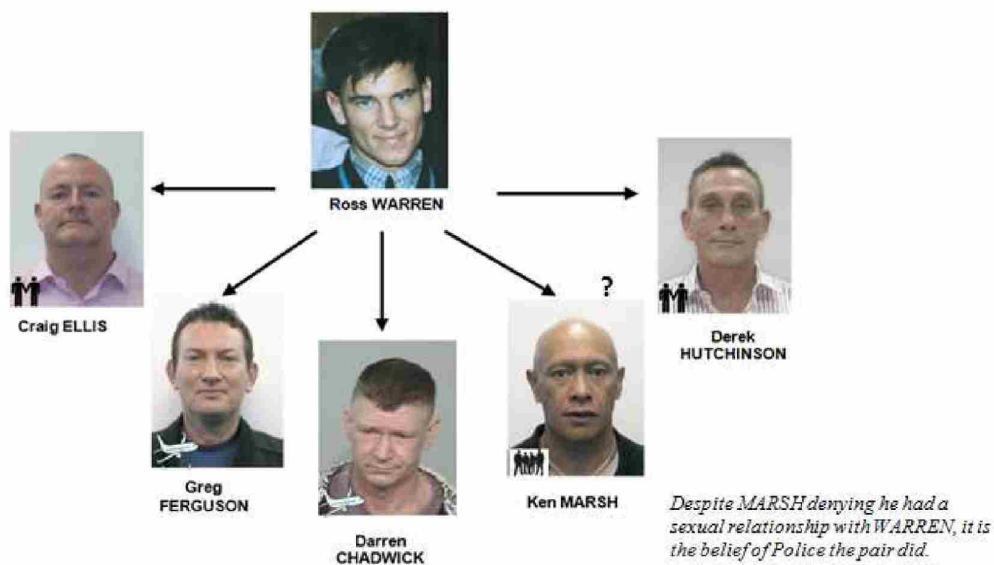
Relationships & Associations

21. Since WARREN's disappearance in July 1989, Police have interviewed many associates and individuals that were involved in intimate relationships with WARREN. The men WARREN associated with can be clearly categorised into four groups: -
- ∞ Work colleagues and associates from WIN TV,
 - ∞ men he met at Gay beats,
 - ∞ homosexual males employed as flight attendants and
 - ∞ other gay associates
22. Interestingly individuals from one category, did not cross over into males within the other groups. Investigators also established that WARREN's personality traits would differ depending on the group he associated with. The following diagram depicts the groups that WARREN associated with.



23. Strike Force Neiwand investigators identified that WARREN led quite a promiscuous life style, with multiple sexual partners and no long-term commitments. A number of witnesses stated that during the period of 1988-1989 they were in an intimate relationship with WARREN. The average relationship would not exceed three months. The associate chart below depicts the identified males who were involved in an intimate relationship with WARREN in the period leading up to his disappearance.

²⁶ IN – 121 – Ross WARREN Profile



24. WARREN's closest associates stated that he frequented gay beats for anonymous casual sex. **Craig ELLIS** (DOB: [REDACTED]) confirmed that he had met him at the Marks Park beat in Tamarama in 1988.^{27 28} **Derrick HUTCHINSON** (DOB: [REDACTED]) confirmed that he met WARREN at a gay beat in Queensland in 1984.^{29 30} ELLIS and HUTCHINSON were not known to each other. In contrast, when associating with other gay men that WARREN hadn't met at a gay beat, he was contemptuous of anyone involved in the gay beat scene. On that basis those individuals believed that WARREN did not attend gay beats.

NOTE: As investigators cannot identify all the gay beats WARREN frequented, all the men he met at these beats have not been identified and spoken with.

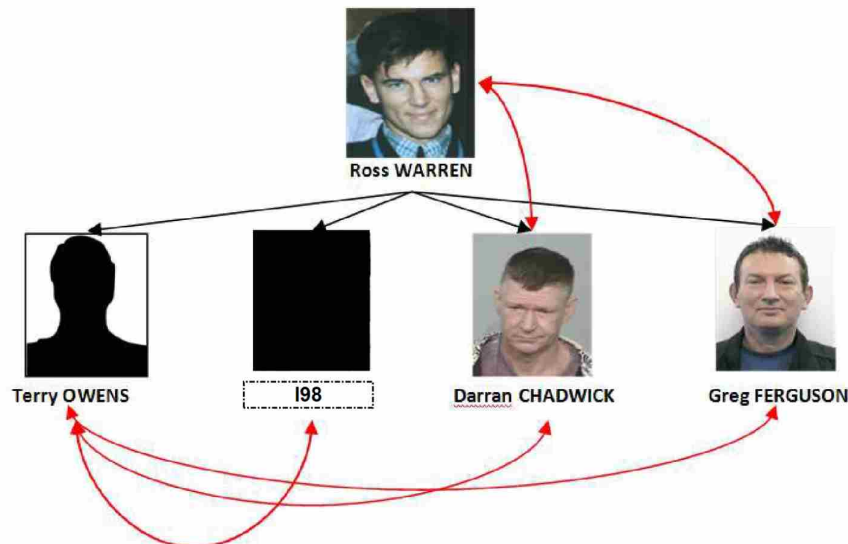
25. WARREN associated with homosexual men who worked as flight attendants. On the 24/05/1994, [REDACTED] 198 (DOB: [REDACTED]), contacted Police with information regarding the disappearance of WARREN. Members of this group included [REDACTED] 198, his partner at the time [REDACTED] 1145 (DOB: [REDACTED] – Died [REDACTED]), **Darren CHADWICK** (DOB: [REDACTED]) and **Greg FERGUSON** (DOB: [REDACTED]).

²⁷ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

²⁸ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

²⁹ ST – 145 – Statement of Derek HUTCHINSON (23/04/2002)

³⁰ ST – 145 – Statement of Derek HUTCHINSON (16/06/2017)



The red arrows denote the people involved in a sexual relationship

26. WARREN was employed at WIN TV in Wollongong and had two distinct groups within the WIN TV workplace.
27. A group he maintained a professional relationship with and did not divulge personal information with, included Mary **PAPAKOSMAS nee FRANKS** (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Kerry KINGSTON** (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Peter ANDREA** (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Danny MITROVIC** (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Michael REDMAN** (DOB: [REDACTED]) and **Priscilla ASLANIDIS** (DOB: [REDACTED]).
28. The other group of employees that shared a friendlier relationship rather than a formal one was, **Phillip ROSSINI** (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Christine JONES** (DOB: [REDACTED] – Died [REDACTED]) and **Susie ELELMAN** (DOB: [REDACTED]) (former employee of WIN TV).
29. Other associates of WARREN, with no specific connection to a group included **Kingi 'Ken' Tyrone MARSH** (DOB: [REDACTED]) and his then partner **Michael MATHISON** (DOB: [REDACTED]). MARSH and MATHISON indicated that WARREN attended social gatherings with them and their circle of friends. The group would frequent gay clubs and bars along the Oxford Street strip on weekends and WARREN would occasionally stay with the pair at their apartment in Points Point.

Original Investigation

Last known movements

30. At 1:12pm on Friday 21/07/1989, WARREN withdrew \$300.00 from an ANZ ATM in Wollongong.³¹ It is not known why WARREN withdrew this cash. (*This transaction receipt was found in his wallet following his disappearance*). Later that afternoon, WARREN arrived at WIN4 TV studios to present

³¹ PH – 7 – X0000639123 – ANZ transaction record

the weather following the 6:00pm news that night (*this occurred around 6:25pm*). Sometime between 5:30pm and 6:00pm WARREN had a conversation with a co-worker, Priscilla ASLANIDIS in the control room at the WIN4 studio.³²

31. At 6:25pm WARREN presented the weather from the newsroom. Once completed, WARREN left the studio to travel to Sydney for the weekend.³³ It is believed WARREN travelled to Sydney in his Nissan Pulsar.³⁴ WARREN had made a prior arrangement to stay the weekend at Craig ELLIS' residence at 14 Albert Street, Redfern.³⁵ WARREN also organised to meet up with WIN4 TV co-worker Phillip ROSSINI in Sydney later that evening. They had exchanged telephone numbers to enable one another to make contact when in Sydney. Knowing he would be staying at ELLIS' home, WARREN provided ROSSINI with ELLIS' landline number.³⁶

NOTE: *It is unknown what route WARREN took from Wollongong to Sydney. It should be noted that varying times have been provided to investigators as to WARREN's arrival time at ELLIS' residence. The times vary from between 7:00pm to 8:00pm (which is unlikely) to after 9pm (which is more realistic).*

32. Sometime between 8:30pm and 9:00pm ROSSINI called Craig ELLIS' landline and spoke to either ELLIS or SAUCIS. At the time WARREN was not at the address and ROSSINI left a message for him to call him back.³⁷ Later that evening WARREN arrived at Craig ELLIS' residence. ELLIS would later describe WARREN wearing jeans, a turtle neck sloppy-joe and a jacket. ELLIS' partner, Paul SAUCIS, was also present when WARREN arrived. WARREN asked ELLIS and SAUCIS to accompany him on a night out in Oxford Street, but the pair decide against going out and made plans to go out the following evening (Saturday 22/07/1989) with WARREN to watch a movie.^{38 39}
33. Sometime between 10:00pm and 11:00pm WARREN contacted ROSSINI and the pair agreed to meet at 'Gilligan's Cocktail bar' in Oxford Street.⁴⁰ Prior to leaving ELLIS' home WARREN emptied the pockets of his pants, leaving pieces of paper on a table.⁴¹
34. About 11:00pm, WARREN left ELLIS' residence in Redfern and travelled to Oxford Street.⁴² It is believed WARREN drove to this location in his vehicle.

NOTE: *The only source of information relating to the movements of WARREN prior to his disappearance is from ROSSINI's statement 26/07/1989.*

35. About 11:45pm ROSSINI arrived near Oxford Street and parked his vehicle in a laneway near the Taylors Square Courthouse. As he was getting out of his vehicle, he noticed WARREN also getting out of his car. The pair walked to 'Gilligan's Cocktail Bar' together. ROSSINI stated they stayed at the venue for fifteen minutes until the bar closed at midnight. They only drank mineral water.

³² ST – 252 – Statement of Priscilla ASLANIDIS

³³ ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

³⁴ OD – 43 – RTA Certificate of ownership NZC 783

³⁵ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

³⁶ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

³⁷ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

³⁸ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

³⁹ ST – 6 – Statement of Paul SAUCIS (25/09/2000)

⁴⁰ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

⁴¹ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

⁴² ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

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ROSSINI further stated while at the venue he noticed WARREN speaking with the barman, an Islander male.⁴³ (*This person has not been identified*).

36. Sometime after midnight, on Saturday 22/07/1989, WARREN and ROSSINI went to 'The Vault bar' in 'The Exchange Hotel' at 34 Oxford Street. ROSSINI stated it was very crowded. They stayed at this venue for 45 minutes and spoke to numerous men unknown to ROSSINI. During this time, WARREN consumed one beer.⁴⁴
37. Around 12:45am, WARREN and ROSSINI made their way to 'The Midnight Shift club' at 85-91 Oxford Street. Where they remained for about an hour. ROSSINI recalled that WARREN spoke to about five different men and was drinking iced water. ROSSINI and WARREN left 'The Midnight Shift' and walked to their cars. WARREN accompanied ROSSINI to his car to have a look at it and they agreed to go out the following night (Saturday). ROSSINI last saw WARREN drive past him on Oxford Street towards Paddington.⁴⁵
38. The following map depicts the movements of ROSSINI and WARREN on the Friday night/Saturday morning.

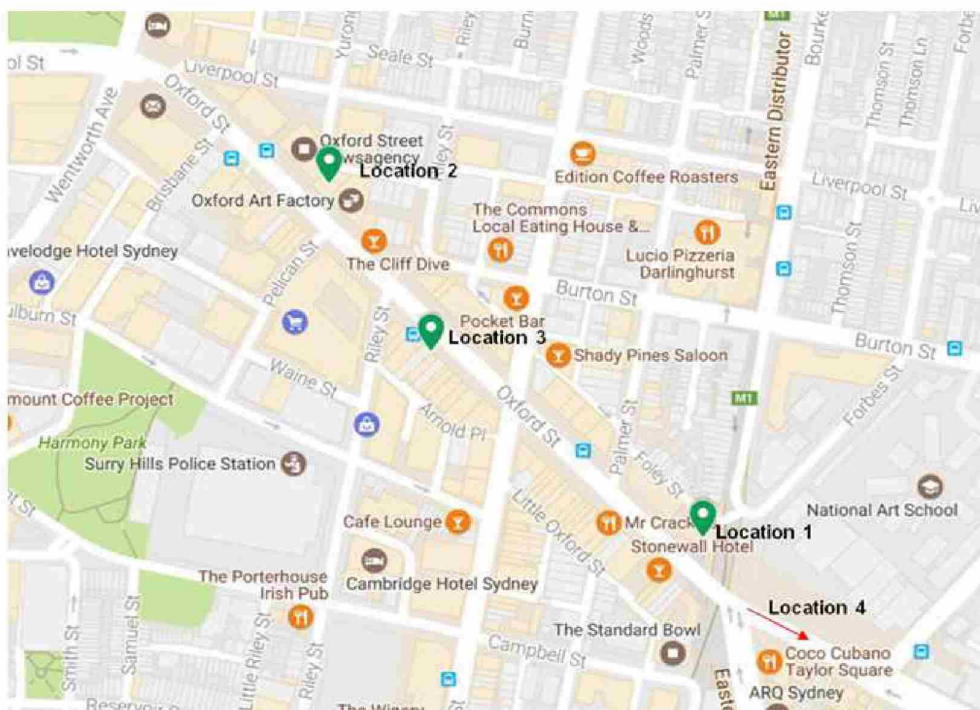


Figure 1: WARREN and ROSSINI movements on Friday night 21st July 1989

Location 1: *The Oxford Hotel*

Location 2: *"The Vault" at The Exchange Hotel*

Location 3: *The Midnight Shift*

Location 4: *ROSSINI sees WARREN in his car at this point driving in the direction of the arrow.*

⁴³ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

⁴⁴ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

⁴⁵ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

WARREN's disappearance

39. About 8:00am on Saturday 22/07/1989, ELLIS awoke and noticed that WARREN hadn't returned home from his night out. ELLIS described his concern as being "mild" and he discussed the issue with SAUCIS. ELLIS thought WARREN may have made alternate plans for the weekend or met someone during his night out.⁴⁶ ELLIS stated that during this period he and SAUCIS were house sitting SAUCIS' brothers' home in Paddington and as a result the pair were residing between ELLIS' Redfern residence and SAUCIS' brothers' Paddington home.

NOTE: ELLIS' housemate, Amanda EVANS was residing with him in the Redfern home at the time of WARREN's disappearance. Despite her beliefs of seeing WARREN and spending time with him on the weekend of his disappearance, her information cannot be corroborated and it is believed to be mistaken.

40. ELLIS' movements around this time are uncertain, nonetheless, ELLIS stated by late afternoon his concerns for WARREN grew. ELLIS believed it was either he or SAUCIS who called Paddington Police Station that night to report WARREN missing. (ELLIS stated he had a memory of going into Redfern Police station to report WARREN missing). In any account, ELLIS stated their concerns were dismissed by Police. There is no Police record of this phone call or the report being made.⁴⁷ ELLIS conceded that although he is unsure about the manner in which they attempted to report WARREN missing, he is adamant there was an attempt on his part to do so.
41. ELLIS stated at some stage on the Saturday evening he and SAUCIS returned to his Redfern residence to check if WARREN had returned. ELLIS stated he noticed WARREN's vehicle was not outside his home, he further stated he looked through the pieces of paper WARREN had discarded the night before. ELLIS described these pieces of paper as lolly wrappers, tissue and one which had a phone number on it.⁴⁸
42. By Sunday 23/07/1989, ELLIS' concerns had grown considerably. ELLIS stated he does not recall him or SAUCIS doing much about WARREN being missing until that evening. It wasn't until WARREN was due to read the 6.00pm nightly news on WIN4 TV that ELLIS decided to call the television station to check if WARREN had arrived at work. ELLIS recalled being told that WARREN hadn't arrived to read the news as scheduled.⁴⁹ ⁵⁰ ELLIS also stated that he recalled contacting Phillip (ROSSINI) at some stage during the day to check if he had heard from WARREN.⁵¹

NOTE: Investigators believe this would have occurred Sunday evening around the time of the nightly news WARREN was expected to read.

43. Between 4:00pm and 4:30pm, Terry MOORE, News Director of WIN4 TV received a call from an unknown on duty journalist at WIN informing him that WARREN had not attended work. MOORE arranged for deputy News Director, Jeremy LASEK, to read the Sunday Night News bulletin.⁵²

⁴⁶ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

⁴⁷ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

⁴⁸ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

⁴⁹ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

⁵⁰ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

⁵¹ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017)

⁵² ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

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44. About 8:10pm, ELLIS and SAUCIS attended Paddington Police Station to report WARREN missing to Constable ROBINSON. Constable ROBINSON prepared an occurrence pad entry reference 7/123, relating to WARREN's disappearance.⁵³ Following this report ELLIS and SAUCIS discussed possible locations where WARREN may have gone. They then attended Mackenzie's Point, Bondi.^{54 55} ELLIS explained that the reason why they commenced their search at Mackenzie's Point was due to him meeting WARREN there in 1989.
45. About 8:30pm ELLIS and SAUCIS attend Mackenzie's Point where they located WARREN's vehicle near the corner of Kenneth Street and Marks Lane, on the ocean side of the street. ELLIS stated he looked inside the vehicle and saw WARREN's wallet on the front passenger seat along with McDonald's wrappers. ELLIS stated the car was locked.⁵⁶
46. About 9:00pm ELLIS and SAUCIS returned to Paddington Police Station to report their discovery to Constable ROBINSON.⁵⁷ ELLIS recounted that Police acknowledged the discovery of WARREN's vehicle and had asked him and SAUCIS to return to Mackenzie's Point to assist them in the search for WARREN on Monday 24/07/1989.

NOTE: The following information was provided to Police by ELLIS and SAUCIS in 2000 and 2017, when statements were formally obtained.



Aerial shot of Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park in 1989 – The circled area is where ELLIS believes he found WARREN's keys.

⁵³ OD – 22 – Paddington Occurrence Pad entry

⁵⁴ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

⁵⁵ ST – 6 – Statement of Paul SAUCIS (25/09/2000)

⁵⁶ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

⁵⁷ OD – 22 – Noted in ROBINSON's occurrence pad entry

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47. About 10:00am Monday 24/07/1989 ELLIS and SAUCIS returned to Mackenzie's Point. They walked around the park and along the ocean track. ELLIS decided to walk off the track and down an access route to the rock shelf (made up of the cliff face and large boulders). At the bottom of this ledge, he saw a set keys he believed to be WARREN's. ELLIS alerted SAUCIS and asked him to contact Police.⁵⁸ SAUCIS went to a house directly across the road from Marks Park and phoned the Police.⁵⁹
48. Subsequently. Constable Daniel ROBINSON went to Kenneth Street, Bondi and observed WARREN's car parked along the southern kerb outside number 24, facing west. Constable ROBINSON opened the car and searched it, finding WARREN's wallet in the glove box as well as some other personal papers. He found clothing strewn about the vehicle, running shoes on the floor in the rear and a small bag containing clothing on the back seat. Inside the boot was another bag with clothing. Constable ROBINSON recalled that ELLIS and SAUCIS attended Paddington Police Station and handed him the keys that they had found at Mackenzie's Point. Constable ROBINSON arranged to have Bondi Police and the Water Police attend Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park to search the headland. Constable ROBINSON went to Kenneth Street, Bondi; where ELLIS showed where he found the keys.⁶⁰

NOTE: *Discrepancies appear from the details provided by ELLIS. This will be addressed on later in the summary.*

49. By Monday 24/07/1989 there was still no sign of WARREN. Kay WARREN was contacted by a member of WIN TV management and informed her that WARREN had failed to show up for work the day before. As a result, the WARREN's contacted Paddington Police⁶¹ and spoke with Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH. Kay advised Police that Ross was in a habit of contacting her every Sunday and the last time she had spoken to him was on the 16/07/1989. Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH informed Kay that her son's car and keys had been found by his friends.⁶² Kay and her husband Alan decided to travel to Sydney.
50. By mid-morning, Constable's Evan BOURIS and John WATSON, from Bondi Police arrived at Mackenzie's Point and met ELLIS and SAUCIS.^{63 64 65} As no records were kept, the details of this search by police is unknown.
51. At 12:10pm Constable BOURIS completed a Miscellaneous Property Book entry - A150422 at Bondi Police Station.⁶⁶ The property recorded was:

1 x Grey leather wallet (returned to family)
1 x ANZ key card
1 x 'MADD' card
1 x Wollongong Library card
1 x Radio Rentals receipt

⁵⁸ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/09/2000)

⁵⁹ ST – 268 – Statement of Paul SAUCIS (10/08/2017)

⁶⁰ ST – 23 – Statement of Constable Daniel ROBINSON (16/7/1991)

⁶¹ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁶² ST – 31 – Statement of Kay WARREN (15/07/1991)

⁶³ ST – 33 – Statement of Constable Evan BOURIS

⁶⁴ IN – 169 – Notebook of Constable Evan BOURIS

⁶⁵ OD – 22 – Occurrence Pad entry - Bondi

⁶⁶ ST – 33 – Statement of Constable Evan BOURIS

1 x NSW Drivers Licence 6814DU
1 x ANZ transaction record (-\$300) on 21/7/89
1 x Pair brown 'Bolle' sunglasses (returned to family)
1 x Photo
Personal letters (Paper with the details of "Derrick Hutchinson")
1 x set of keys – 8 keys
1x Vehicle NZC783 Nissan Pulsar Brown (In Wairoa Ave) (returned to family)
\$77.31 in cash (returned to family)

52. On the morning of Tuesday 25/07/1989 Kay and Alan WARREN arrive in Sydney from Queensland. In Kay WARREN's statement dated 28/06/2017 she recalled speaking with Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH about the investigation being carried out by Police. Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH took her and her husband to Mackenzie's Point and showed them a spot off the Ocean Walk Way which was a rock shelf. He told them that was where Ross' keys were found. Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH explained to the WARREN's that Ross had slipped and fallen into the water and dropped his keys on the way down.⁶⁷

Search of WARREN's apartment

53. By Wednesday 26/07/1989 major media outlets reported WARREN's disappearance as a murder; the Daily Telegraph printed an article titled '*Murder fears for TV Weatherman*'.
54. About 9:00am the WARREN's attend Paddington Police Station and Ross' property (except for his vehicle) was returned to them. The vehicle was retained by police for a fingerprint examination.⁶⁸ The WARREN's were then asked by Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH to attend Ross' unit at 3/30 Smith Street Wollongong, as Police would be searching it.
55. About 1:00pm Kay and Alan WARREN were met by Detectives GREEN, DAWSON, FITZGERALD, and CRIMMINS from Wollongong Police at the Smith Street unit. Ross' apartment was described as very messy, with empty food and drink containers, partially eaten food, and clothing on the floor.⁶⁹ Photographs of the unit were taken by Detective HODDER from Wollongong Scientific Section. (A total of 17 photographs are taken – below 9 of 17 are shown)⁷⁰



Photographs depicting WARREN's living room

⁶⁷ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁶⁸ ST – 33 – Statement of Constable Evan BOURIS

⁶⁹ ST – 21 – Statement of Detective Dennis GREEN

⁷⁰ ST – 21 – Statement of Detective Dennis GREEN



Photographs depicting WARREN's bedroom



Photographs depicting WARREN's kitchen

56. Following WARREN's apartment being searched, his parents Kay and Alan attended WIN TV studios to speak with Ross' boss. They meet with director, Terry MOORE, and other executives. MOORE was unable to provide any information about what may have happened to Ross. WARREN's parents were shown to his work desk and were given a photo of WARREN which the studio had on their wall.^{71 72} Whilst in Wollongong, Alan WARREN attended the real estate agency that managed Ross's unit. He was informed that Ross had paid his rent for the next two (2) weeks.
57. Wollongong Police obtained statements from WIN4 TV staff. The staff members spoken to on this date were Christine JONES⁷³, makeup artist and Phillip ROSSINI⁷⁴, audio operator.
58. In her statement, Christine Jones stated about 2 months prior to WARREN's disappearance while she was applying his makeup, he informed her that he was gay and was in a relationship with a male named 'Ken'. WARREN stated that he was only able to see 'Ken' on Saturday's when his partner was working. Interestingly, JONES stated that WARREN commented that 'Ken' had been living with him for three to four months.⁷⁵
59. On Thursday 27/07/1989, WARREN's vehicle, was fingerprinted. From the analysis conducted on the vehicle, only WARREN's fingerprints were identified. The results from this examination were not documented. Once the vehicle was released by Police into the possession of the WARREN

⁷¹ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁷² ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

⁷³ ST – 25 – Statement of Christine JONES (26/07/21989)

⁷⁴ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI (26/07/1989)

⁷⁵ ST – 25 – Statement of Christine JONES (26/07/21989)

family, Kay and Alan WARREN drove it back to Queensland. Kay WARREN stated she remembered that the car had a full tank of petrol.⁷⁶

60. In the week following WARREN's disappearance, Terry MOORE [statement 27/06/2017] was asked by the Police to attend Glebe Morgue to identify a body, which was located on the southern side of Sydney Harbour, to ascertain if it was WARREN. MOORE viewed the body on a monitor at Glebe morgue. MOORE stated he only saw the head and shoulders of the body and noted that it was not WARREN because the body appeared to be older, bigger and with a fatter face.⁷⁷

NOTE: No Police record could be located to confirm this identification.

61. Within a week of the reporting of WARREN's disappearance, the investigation appears to have stagnated, with very little investigative activity conducted.

Homicide Squad – South Investigation

62. The Investigation Summary into the death of Ross WARREN cannot be complete without highlighting the spate of assaults/robberies/murders committed against gay men in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney around the period of WARREN's disappearance. The following sub topics provide the reader with a synopsis into the deaths or assaults identified by Homicide Squad South investigators that occurred in the 1990's.

Murder of Kritchikorn RATTANAJURATHAPORN

63. On 21/07/1990, Thai National Kritchikorn RATTANAJURATHAPORN, a homosexual male, was in the company of another homosexual male, Jeffrey SULLIVAN on the pathway at Mackenzie's Point, Bondi.⁷⁸ At this time, they were set upon by three offenders who proceeded to viciously assault them. At some point during the assault RATTANAJURATHAPORN's body ended up at the base of the cliff and it was discovered at dawn the following morning. SULLIVAN managed to escape and survive the attack.

64. 3 youths were arrested, charged and convicted of RATTANAJURATHAPORN's murder -^{79 80 81}

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| I. | NP22 | , DOB: [REDACTED] |
| II. | NP23 | , DOB: [REDACTED] |
| III. | NP24 | , DOB: [REDACTED] |

65. The murder of RATTANAJURATHAPORN was investigated by Former Detective Sergeant Steve McCANN of the Homicide Squad - South. Initial inquiries into RATTANAJURATHAPORN's murder revealed two other incidents of a suspicious nature that occurred at Mackenzie's Point/Marks

⁷⁶ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/6/2017)

⁷⁷ ST – 262 – Statement of Terry MOORE

⁷⁸ ST – 201 – Statement of Jeffrey SULLIVAN

⁷⁹ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

⁸⁰ OD – 129 – SMH – 08/08/1992 sentence for RATTANAJURATHAPORN murder

⁸¹ OD – 130 – DT 08/08/1992 sentence for RATTANAJURATHAPORN murder

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Park.⁸² These being the disappearance of Ross Bradley WARREN on the 21/07/1989 and the death of John Alan RUSSELL on the 22/11/1989.⁸³

Murder of Richard Norman JOHNSON

66. On 24/01/1990, Richard Norman JOHNSON, 34 years old (DOB: 23/08/1956) homosexual male was bashed and kicked to death by 8 youths outside a toilet block at Alexandria Park, Alexandria. All the youths involved were arrested, charged and convicted after pleading guilty to manslaughter and murder and received varying sentences for their involvement in this crime.⁸⁴

67. The offenders were: -

- i. [NP21] DOB: [REDACTED]
- ii. [NP15] DOB: [REDACTED]
- iii. [NP16] DOB: [REDACTED]
- iv. [NP41] DOB: [REDACTED]
- v. [NP17] DOB: [REDACTED]
- vi. [NP18] DOB: [REDACTED]
- vii. [NP19] DOB: [REDACTED] – Died [REDACTED]
- viii. [NP20] DOB: [REDACTED]

68. [NP21] provided Police with a statement and assisted further by taking part in covert operations wearing a listening device to record conversations with other associates he believed were involved in crimes committed upon gay men. One such crime was the murder of William ALLEN, which was committed two years prior.⁸⁵

69. Homicide Squad investigators considered the suspects involved in the RATTANAJURATHAPORN murder and the suspects involved in the murder of another gay male, Richard Norman JOHNSON on the 24/01/1990 at Alexandria Park as possible suspects in the death of RUSSELL and the disappearance of WARREN. This was detailed by Former Detective Sergeant McCANN in his report titled 'Overview of homosexual murders and incidents within the inner-city area - INNER CITY GAY MURDERS', completed on the 10/08/1991.⁸⁶ In this report, other crimes were also identified and assessed for any link to the RATTANAJURATHAPORN and JOHNSON murders.

Murder of William ALLEN

70. About 12:30pm on 29/12/1988 William ALLEN a 50-year-old (DOB: 14/08/1938) pensioner was found deceased in the bathroom of his home slumped over the bath tub with a number of injuries to his face.⁸⁷ His death was believed to be as a result of an assault from the night before. [NP21]

⁸² ST – 219 – Induced Statement of [NP24]

⁸³ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

⁸⁴ OD – 185 – Crime Information Report: murder of Richard JOHNSON

⁸⁵ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

⁸⁶ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

⁸⁷ OD – 182 - Crime Information Report murder of William ALLEN

[NP21], [statement 11/04/1991], indicated that the following persons implicated themselves in ALLEN's murder:⁸⁸

- i. [NP44] DOB: [REDACTED]
- ii. [NP42] DOB: [REDACTED]
- iii. [NP45] DOB: [REDACTED]
- iv. [NP19] DOB: [REDACTED] - Died [REDACTED]
- v. [NP18] DOB: [REDACTED]

71. [NP21] stated a screw driver was used to stab ALLEN, which is consistent with a wound to the deceased's hand. It was this detail that gave credibility to [NP21]'s account. Despite legally recorded listening device conversations between the nominated parties no admissions or evidence of involvement into the murder of ALLEN were captured. No charges have been laid in relation to the murder of ALLEN.

Note: *Inquiries into the death of ALLEN revealed that he was closely associated with Robert "Dolly" DUNN. DUNN and ALLEN were both known child sex offenders, preying on juvenile males/boys. RUSSELL was nominated by his brother, Peter as being associated with DUNN through his friendship with REDMILE, this association was denied by REDMILE when providing his statement to Police. DUNN himself was interviewed by Police and denied knowing RUSSELL.*⁸⁹

Death of John RUSSELL

72. The death of John Alan RUSSELL was also examined by the Homicide Squad. On the evening of Wednesday 22/11/1989, RUSSELL went to the Bondi Hotel for a night of drinking and socialising with a friend, Peter REDMILE. Around 11.00pm REDMILE parted company with RUSSELL and left the Bondi Hotel, RUSSELL remained at the hotel. RUSSELL left the hotel shortly thereafter and went to Mackenzie's Point.
73. About 10:30am on Thursday 23/11/1989 RUSSELL's body was discovered at the base of a cliff below the walkway of Mackenzie's Point between Bondi and Tamarama. When found Police noticed RUSSELL had a clump of hair on his hand. Subsequent investigations have failed to locate the hair, but it is depicted in the crime scene photographs. The initial Police investigation into RUSSELL's death deemed it 'accidental'.
74. Detective Sergeant McCANN commented "*RUSSELL's dead and the circumstance surround his demise are disturbing to say the least. It is also noted that other serious assaults were committed in the same area about the same time.*"
75. "*Nothing has come forward through the investigation to directly link this death to any criminal activity. The brief is attached.*"⁹⁰

⁸⁸ [REDACTED]

⁸⁹ ER - 21 - ERISP transcript: Robert DUNN (19/03/2002)

⁹⁰ OD - 41 - Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

76. An inquest was conducted on 2/07/1990 before NSW State Coroner Mr Derek HAND. Coroner HAND found that the cause and manner of death was due to "the effects of multiple injuries sustained then and there when he fell from a cliff to the rocks below, but whether he fell accidentally or otherwise, the evidence does not enable me to say."⁹¹ Unfortunately no transcripts of those proceeding are available.

Other crimes against Gay men

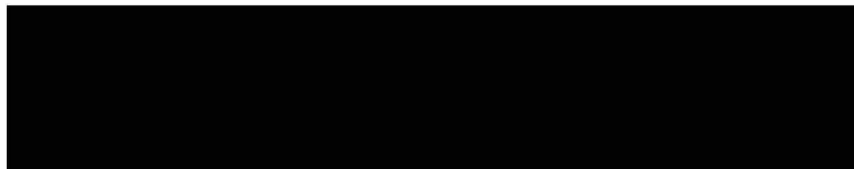
77. The following extract is from the report completed by Detective Sergeant McCANN on the 10/08/1991 titled 'Overview of homosexual murders and incidents within the inner-city area - INNER CITY GAY MURDERS', –

*'It was noted that another homosexual David John McMAHON, a Bondi resident, was attacked on the same pathway about 11:15pm on 21/12/1989. During the course of this attack one of his assailants said 'I'm gonna throw you over the side' and commenced to drag him to the cliff edge but McMAHON escaped. McMAHON initially identified [redacted] NP43 a seventeen-year-old local assailant, as being the leader of this group but has since shown a complete unwillingness to pursue or assist Police with this matter.'*⁹²

Wayne (Rick) TONKS was found deceased in his Artarmon apartment on 19/05/1990. He had been bashed and a bag placed over his head and taped causing him to suffocate. No arrests have been affected.

TONKS at the time of his death was a school teacher at Cleveland Street Boys High School. He also was in the habit of using his alias and placing his home telephone number on toilet walls in the northern suburbs area, inviting homosexual liaisons.^{93 94}

This same practice led to Richard JOHNSON's demise having left his telephone number on the Alexandria Park toilet block wall. JOHNSON was subsequently lured to the toilet block on the pretext of a homosexual liaison and attacked.



⁹¹ OD – 259 – Inquest - Opening Summary document by Mr LAKATOS (Counsel Assisting)

⁹² ST – 40 – Statement of David McMAHON (03/01/1990)

⁹³ OD – 187 – Crime Information Report – [redacted] 190 robbery

⁹⁴ ST – 198 – Statement of [redacted] 190

Attempt by investigators to link WARREN's disappearance to youth gang members

78. On the 16/07/1991, Detective Senior Constable Jim BIGNELL of the Homicide Squad - Southern Region requested Detective Sergeant S. CARTER from Fingerprints to compare the listed suspects against fingerprints obtained from WARREN's vehicle.⁹⁵ The suspects listed for comparison were:

I.	NP44	CNI: [REDACTED]	IX.	Sean CUSHMAN	CNI: [REDACTED]
II.	NP45	CNI: [REDACTED]	X.	NP22	CNI: [REDACTED]
III.	NP42	CNI: [REDACTED]	XI.	NP23	CNI: [REDACTED]
IV.	NP18	CNI: [REDACTED]	XII.	NP24	CNI: [REDACTED]
V.	NP19	CNI: [REDACTED]	XIII.	NP132	CNI: [REDACTED]
VI.	NP16	CNI: [REDACTED]	XIV.	NP41	CNI: [REDACTED]
VII.	NP15	CNI: [REDACTED]	XV.	NP20	CNI: [REDACTED]
VIII.	NP21	CNI: [REDACTED]	XVI.	NP17	CNI: [REDACTED]

79. There was no match with any outstanding fingerprints from the above listed persons of interest.

Covert Phase targeting youth gang members

80. In April 1991, Detective Sergeant McCANN conducted a covert operation whereby [REDACTED] 186 (DOB: [REDACTED] NP16 [REDACTED] 186 [REDACTED] NP16 [REDACTED] No admissions were made by [REDACTED] NP16 in relation to specific crimes, he did however make general comments about himself and [REDACTED] NP15 frequently bashing gay men in Bondi, Moore Park and Centennial Park areas.⁹⁶
81. In July 1991 Detective Sergeant McCANN conducted a covert operation at the at Minda Correctional facility involving [REDACTED] NP21 and [REDACTED] NP16, a co-offender in the murder of Richard JOHNSON.⁹⁷
82. The operation resulted in [REDACTED] NP16 implicating himself in approximately 70-100 gang assaults and robberies on gay men in the Alexandria and Bondi areas, in particular the coastal walk at Tamarama. [REDACTED] NP16 did not implicate himself in any murders. He discussed a specific incident in Bondi around the coastal path where he and [REDACTED], possibly [REDACTED] NP51, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attacked a gay man and assaulted him with a skateboard, [REDACTED] NP16 searched the man's car finding about \$3 then tossed his keys into the sea. [REDACTED] NP16 stated the group 'bolted' from the scene then caught a bus home.⁹⁸
83. In June 1991, [REDACTED] NP16 was interviewed at Keelong Detention Centre by Detective Sergeant Gary PHILLIPS and Detective Sergeant Brian SAUNDERS in relation to robbery offences on gay males. [REDACTED] NP16 declined to comment and denied any involvement in the matters being investigated.⁹⁹

⁹⁵ OD - 44 - List of suspects for fingerprint comparison request

⁹⁶ LD - 3 - Various excerpts LD [REDACTED] NP21 [REDACTED] 186 [REDACTED] NP42 [REDACTED] NP16 [REDACTED] NP15

⁹⁷ LD - 2 - Transcript of [REDACTED] NP21 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] NP16 [REDACTED]

⁹⁸ LD - 4 - Transcript of [REDACTED] NP21 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] NP16 [REDACTED]

⁹⁹ ST - 50 - Statement of Detective Sergeant Gary PHILLIPS

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84. Further covert operations were conducted targeting other offenders convicted of the murder of Richard JOHNSON (NP19) and (NP18). During these recorded conversations (NP19) made no admission of his involvement in any murders and denied being involved in gay bashings apart from the JOHNSON murder. There were also denials of any knowledge or involvement into the disappearance of WARREN.

Information from the public

85. Due to WARREN's media profile in the Wollongong area and the fact he was in the public eye as a newsreader, his disappearance did capture the interest of not only the Wollongong area but the broader community. In the ensuing weeks, months and years following WARREN's disappearance, police received numerous reports of sightings of WARREN, and/or information relating to his disappearance.^{100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107}
86. The majority of the claims made in these reports were unfounded allegations or a weak suggestion placed against certain individual's being involved in crimes around the period of time WARREN disappeared.
87. It can be surmised that the clear majority of information received related to individuals being involved in assaults or robberies committed upon gay men. The reports that had merit or identified an individual as possibly being linked to WARREN's disappearance, returned a negative result.

I88 a.k.a I88 Alias 1

88. At 11:00am on the 21/07/1990, interestingly being the one-year anniversary of Ross WARREN's disappearance, Constable WICKS from Wollongong Police Station received a phone call from an anonymous male regarding the disappearance of WARREN. The caller stated he was the ex-boyfriend of (I88) (DOB: [REDACTED]) and that (I88) broke off the relationship with the caller to be with WARREN. The caller stated WARREN was currently in South Australia with (I88), and that the caller had recently spoken to WARREN and (I88). The caller alleged WARREN staged his own disappearance because he owed money for drugs in Sydney. Prior to ending the call, the caller stated (I88) moved from New South Wales to South Australia on 31/12/1989.¹⁰⁸ In 1989 (I88) was a 22-year-old.
89. On the 03/10/1990 Detectives Tim AMOS and Phillip HOFF attached to Adelaide Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB) interviewed (I88) in South Australia. During this interview (I88) was inconsistent and erratic with his answers. It was evident his recall of dates was limited

¹⁰⁰ OD – 168 – P41: Info from Arthur PILLON – MP Ross WARREN

¹⁰¹ OD – 137 – Information reports re (NP67) and associates 1989

¹⁰² OD – 138 – IR (NP57) 1989 assoc with males assaulting homosexuals

¹⁰³ OD – 139 – Briefing notes re the 'Amandla' gang operation February 1990

¹⁰⁴ EX – 1 – I62509355 – Shane FINLAY suspect

¹⁰⁵ EX – 5 – I61572764 – D. ROBERTSON – PSK gang in Waverly area 1992

¹⁰⁶ OD – 55 – I17688547 – (NP133) Possible Suspect

¹⁰⁷ ST – 24 – Statement of Elizabeth FITZPATRICK

¹⁰⁸ ST – 60 – Statement of Constable WICKS Statement (30/8/2001)

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and at times he was confused with the chronology of events. [188] stated in this interview that he consumed a Valium tablet an hour before and that he took three Valium tablets per day. [188] stated he had a three-month relationship with WARREN (there is no information to support this claim).¹⁰⁹

90. [188] provided a number of theories as to WARREN's disappearance, ranging from WARREN staging his own disappearance because he owed money for drugs through to WARREN being murdered. The specific information [188] provided about WARREN, such as the location and people he was staying with in Sydney, description of his car, where his car was found, where his parents resided was available from the media reports at the time of WARREN's disappearance. [188] suggested in his interview with Police that in February 1990 a female friend named Trish knew of WARREN's whereabouts.

NOTE: Strike Force Neiwand investigators identified Trish as Patricia HIESEBERGER. In 2017 HIESEBERGER informed Police she knew of [188] in 1989, but had never met him or WARREN. She further stated she had no contact with [188] while he was in Adelaide. HIESEBERGER surmised that [188] was seeing a friend of hers and she came to learn [188] to be a known liar.¹¹⁰

91. After the interview Police contacted David MOON, [188]'s ex-boyfriend. MOON stated he and [188] had both lived in Wollongong and [188] had told him he knew WARREN. (This was after WARREN's disappearance was reported in the media). MOON stated that [188] cannot help telling lies. It was his opinion that [188] would have made up the story about WARREN 'for a bit of drama'.¹¹¹

92. There is no information apart from [188]'s own admission that he personally knew WARREN. [188] is the only person to indicate he was in a relationship with WARREN. As [188] has a reputation for lying and making up stories the idea that he made the call to investigators himself is plausible. In addition, there is no information to suggest WARREN is still alive or was still alive after July 1989. Regarding the call to Wollongong Police in 1990, it is believed [188] made the telephone call himself. As there are no phone records from that time period available, this assertion cannot be verified.

NP57

93. On 29/09/1989, Sergeant Robert BOEG was stationed at Nowra Police Station and submitted Crime Information Report 89/1/341 regarding [NP57] (DOB: [REDACTED]). The information indicated that [NP57] associated with several Lebanese persons who assaulted homosexuals and that they had assaulted Ross WARREN. Inquiries conducted into the source of this information found that it was from a former associate of [NP57].¹¹²

94. On 25/04/1991 Police obtained statements from [Miss M] and her mother, [Miss X] [Miss X] regarding [NP57]'s alleged involvement in WARREN's disappearance. [Miss M] [Miss M] stated that she was friends [NP57] [REDACTED] [Miss M]

¹⁰⁹ ST – 133 – Statement of Detective Phillip HOFF

¹¹⁰ ST – 245 – Statement of Patricia HIESEBERGER (08/05/2017)

¹¹¹ OD – 93 - Detective EMMET's run sheet dated (02/06/1991)

¹¹² ST – 71 – Statement of Sergeant Robert BOEG

stated on a day she was getting ready [REDACTED] NP57 NP57 allegedly stated, "Me and my friends go poofter bashing...Do you know the guy off the news that does the weather report, the good looking one?" Miss M replied, "Yeah." NP57 stated, "We happened to find him and his boyfriend. We got him took him somewhere and bashed him." Miss M told NP57 that she did not want to hear any more.¹¹³

95. This conversation was overheard by Miss M's mother, Miss X who contacted Police and provided a statement. Miss X stated it was about three weeks after WARREN went missing that NP57 came to her house prior to going out with Miss M. Miss X stated she heard NP57 say "You know the guy that reads the news and weather on TV...we bashed and killed him...There was a group of about eight of us, a Lebanese gang from the Cross. We got him and threw him off the rocks. We go poofter bashing all the time." Miss X recalled NP57 also stating, "We moved the car from one place to another." Miss X wasn't sure if her daughter was present when the incident took place.¹¹⁴
96. Detective Sergeant McCANN explored the option of utilising Miss M and/or Miss X in a covert operation where they would speak to NP57 about the comments [REDACTED] had made. However, neither Miss M nor Miss X were willing to participate. As there was no evidence to corroborate the comments made by NP57, Detective Sergeant McCANN opted to not interview NP57. This decision was based on the fact [REDACTED] had a significant criminal history and it was believed [REDACTED] would not be open to police interrogation. This information was intended to be pursued should other supporting evidence be obtained. Due to vagueness and inability to corroborate the information the allegation against NP57 was not followed up any further.

Greg FERGUSON

97. On the 01/07/1994 then Detective Inspector Mark MURDOCH, from the Homicide Unit, Major Crime Squad South received a phone call from a male named 198 198 stated he had information regarding WARREN's disappearance that he wished to pass onto Police. Inspector MURDOCH met with 198, who explained that he had a friendship with WARREN, the pair mingled in the same social circles. 198 expressed an opinion that Greg FERGUSON, a former partner of WARREN could be a person of interest in WARREN's disappearance. 198 stated that FERGUSON was known to lie and had reason to be angry at WARREN for ending their relationship. 198 described FERGUSON'S reaction to WARREN's disappearance as 'understated'.^{115 116}
98. In 1989 Greg FERGUSON was a 27-year-old (DOB: [REDACTED]) gay male. FERGUSON was a flight attendant for Qantas International where he had met 198. The pair became close friends and it was through the friendship that FERGUSON became intimately involved with WARREN. The pair had a short relationship in 1989 prior to WARREN's disappearance.¹¹⁷ Qantas Security Management records confirmed that FERGUSON was out of the country from the morning of the 20/07/1989 to 24/07/1989.¹¹⁸

¹¹³ ST – 28 – Statement of Miss M

¹¹⁴ ST – 27 – Statement of Miss X

¹¹⁵ ST – 10 – Statement of Inspector Mark MURDOCH

¹¹⁶ IN – 158 – Run sheet 01/06/1994 information from 198

¹¹⁷ ST – 17 – Statement of Greg FERGUSON

¹¹⁸ IN – 161 – Enquiries with DAVENPORT – Qantas: G. FERGUSON

Homicide Investigation suspended

99. Detective Sergeant McCANN submitted evidence collated through the covert inquiries conducted (Listening devices/body wire) along with other material obtained (record of interviews, statements etc) throughout the investigation to the DPP seeking a legal advising.
100. The advice from prosecutors was that any offer of indemnity to offenders involved to provide evidence about these deaths would unlikely be supported by the Attorney Generals Department. Further to this was that, *'any conspiracy charge against the nominated suspects is not available for consideration.'*¹¹⁹
101. In relation to the death of WARREN, Detective Sergeant McCANN put forward several scenario's

"FIRST SCENARIO - [187] a youth worker at Keelong Detention Centre overheard [NP16] state to a fellow prisoner, [186], that he was responsible for throwing a homosexual off a cliff at Bondi onto the rocks. Statements were obtained.

[186], [REDACTED], wore a listening device and recorded conversations he had with [NP16]. Those conversations reveal a vague and general reference to the frequent bashings of homosexuals in Bondi, Centennial and Moore Park areas. [186] [REDACTED] where it has been bluntly suggested by his parents that he is not willing to further assist.

[NP21] also had recorded conversations with [NP16] at Minda Detention Centre. [NP16] again implicates himself in this practice but fails to clearly identify any specific incident. He does however, state that he took a set of car keys off one of the victims he attacked at South Bondi and after searching his brown motor vehicle parked nearby, throw those keys into the ocean. The victim at the time had been pushed off a small cliff. [NP16] suggests this attack happened about 10:30pm and the motor vehicle was near a set of stairs near the Bondi Pool which is a considerable distance from where WARREN's vehicle was parked. Further, [NP16] indicated there were three or four keys on a ring while WARREN possessed eight keys on a ring.

[NP16] was shown aerial photographs of Mackenzies Point and South Bondi and indicated stairs and pathway on the opposite side of the Point as being the location of his attack.

[NP16] also admitted being involved in approximately seventy to one hundred gang assault and robberies on homosexual men in these three areas, whilst [NP21] implicates himself in about fifteen. However, their respective legal representatives have demanded a guarantee of total immunity for their clients

¹¹⁹ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

before any further information and cooperation is given. Therefore, while general admissions are made about their criminal activities there is no direct charge that can be preferred against wither at this point in time. The Prosecuting Section has advised that even a general conspiracy charge is not available for consideration.

Crown Prosecutor Mark TEDESCHI QC has inferred that the Attorney Generals Department would be highly unlikely to accede to a blanket indemnity for these offenders having in mind the overall circumstances of their incarceration. Consequently, while it is apparent that frequently homosexuals are assaulted by thugs including NP16 and NP21 this avenue of endeavour is finished.

SECOND SCENARIO Miss X and her daughter Miss M, both of ██████████ supplied statements on 25/04/1991 where individually they were informed by NP57 born ██████████, CNI ██████████, that ██████████ was present when WARREN was bashed and thrown off a cliff at South Bondi. NP57 mentioned that ██████████ was in a group of eight Lebanese from Kings Cross when this happened. This information was told to them about three weeks after WARREN in fact went missing. Both ██████████ came forward with the information only as a result of WARREN's case being reopened early this year by me, which received media attention.

Both Miss X and Miss M were spoken to about the need to gain evidence by way of listening device and Miss M expressed no desire to participate. Miss X initially showed willingness but since that time has shown great reluctance in doing this. Further, NP57 has a lengthy criminal history for violence and it is strongly felt through inquiries that ██████████ would not be open to Police interrogation. ██████████ also is nomadic and presently ██████████ whereabouts are not known.

It is therefore felt that this information may be pursued at some future time when supportive or corroborative evidence is gained elsewhere."¹²⁰

Operation Taradale

102. Between the 15/07/1998 and 26/04/2000, Kay WARREN, wrote 6 letters to the NSW Police in relation to the investigation into her son's disappearance.

103. In the letters sent to the NSW Police, Mrs WARREN urged for her son's disappearance to be the subject of a Coronial Inquest, as she believed, due to the passage of time her son should be officially declared deceased.¹²¹ Her request was supported and the case reopened. It should be noted that if not for Mrs WARREN's letter writing to the NSW Police the case may not have been reopened. Ultimately the case was forwarded to the Detectives office at Paddington Police Station.

¹²⁰ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

¹²¹ OD – 173 – Correspondence (x6) Kay WARREN to NSW Police

The Re-investigation

104. In May 2000 former Detective Sergeant Stephen PAGE, established Operation TARADALE, the Strike Force was established to re-investigate the disappearance of Ross WARREN.¹²²
105. Operation Taradale focused on 3 cases, these being i) the disappearance of Ross WARREN, ii) the death of John RUSSELL and iii) the serious assault on David McMAHON (*listed then as an attempted murder*). Later, as the investigation was nearing inquest the disappearance of Gilles MATTAINI in 1985 was added to the investigation.
106. Operation Taradale followed the pre-existing hypothesis outlined in the report completed by Detective Sergeant McCANN on the 10/08/1991.¹²³ Operation Taradale's investigation concurred that other than the disappearance of Ross WARREN, the Mackenzie's Point area was a hub for violent crimes, including deaths committed against members of the gay community visiting the area for a sexual rendezvous.
107. The evidence gathered by Operation Taradale investigators relied on the witness account of David McMAHON, who was seriously assaulted on the 21/12/1989 at Mackenzie's Point by a group of youths. McMAHON was viewed as a *'survivor'* of a possible murder rather than a victim of a robbery/serious assault. As such, a strong reliance was given to McMAHON's version of events. Investigators formed a hypothesis that Ross WARREN and John RUSSELL were subject to the same *'Gay Hate gang attack'*.
108. In March 2001, the investigation shifted slightly due to a study conducted and written by Jenny Mouzos and then serving Police Officer Sue THOMPSON. The study was named *"Comparison between Gay Hate-Related Homicides of Men and Other Male Homicides in New South Wales 1989-1999"*.¹²⁴
109. The study outlined the factors which are likely to be present in a gay hate related homicide compared to other male homicides. THOMPSON provided a statement to Operation TARADALE investigators and stated some findings were that 22% of gay hate homicides between 1989 and 1999 occurred in 'beat' locations, and that often offenders involved in gay hate related homicides have admitted (often informally) they had a long history of violent attacks against gay men.
110. THOMPSON indicated that Marks Park at Tamarama was known to be a night time 'beat' and was very busy and popular during this period. THOMPSON discussed reasons why, in her opinion, gay men attend 'beat' areas and the reasons why a high volume of crimes committed against these men are not reported. Her opinion gave Operation Taradale investigators weight to their theory that WARREN and RUSSELL had been attacked by a gang of *'gay bashers'* looking for their victims in a known 'beat' area.¹²⁵
111. During this 3-year investigation, Operation Taradale investigators obtained fresh statements from a number of witnesses; some of whom were previously identified after WARREN's disappearance by Homicide investigators during their review of the case in 1990.

¹²² ST – 214 – Statement of Det/Sgt PAGE (11/07/2002)

¹²³ OD – 41 – Report by Det Sgt McCANN of linked gay murders/assaults 1991

¹²⁴ OD – 69 – Comparison between Gay hate and other male homicides

¹²⁵ OD – 69 – Comparison between Gay hate and other male homicides

112. The focus of Operation Taradale Investigators was to –

- ∞ Revisit nominated persons of interest that were previously identified by Detective Sergeant McCANN by utilising modern day technology;
- ∞ As well as eliminating red herrings from previous investigations like [redacted 188] and [redacted NP57].

WARREN's homosexuality was acknowledged as a motive for his disappearance and possible murder, however little emphasis was placed on victimology, associates and lifestyle.

Missing Person inquires

113. In January of 2001, Operation Taradale requested assistance from the Missing Persons Unit in relation to conducting inquiries into the whereabouts or movements of WARREN. Constable Joanne WILLIAMS from the Missing Person Unit conducted the following inquiries; activity of WARREN's bank account¹²⁶, if WARREN had come under Police notice Australia wide, Births, Deaths and Marriages checks, Australian Taxation Office and Department of Immigration. An authority to release WARREN's photograph to the media was also obtained.¹²⁷

114. On 07/08/2001, Constable WILLIAMS compared the physical description of WARREN to that of all unidentified bodies listed as outstanding in New South Wales at that time of his disappearance; this did not yield a result. Constable WILLIAMS also requested for all State and Territory Police in Australia to compare the physical description of WARREN with all outstanding unidentified bodies on their records. All replies indicated that the description of WARREN did not match any unidentified body on record.¹²⁸

NOTE: Operation Taradale investigators considered the NSW Police procedures to missing persons in 1988/1989. Senior Sergeant EMERY completed a statement in relation to the approach carried out by NSW Police. Of interest, S/Sgt EMERY stated that prior to 1988/1989 the approach to missing persons by Police was that it was deemed to be more of a social concern rather than a law enforcement issue. In 1988/89 approximately 3000 reports of missing persons were taken annually and the actual investigation of missing persons was always the responsibility of the officer taking the initial report.¹²⁹

Statement of Officer in Charge

115. On 19/02/2001, Operation Taradale investigators obtained a statement from initial investigator former Detective Sergeant Kenneth BOWDITCH. BOWDITCH stated that during the investigation he had formed the opinion that WARREN was a person who wouldn't fail to attend appointments. BOWDITCH also stated he spoke to Craig ELLIS and Paul SAUCIS. BOWDITCH stated the pair reported WARREN missing at 8:15pm on 23/07/1989 to Constable ROBINSON at Paddington Police

¹²⁶ ST – 192 – Affidavit of Deborah DIMMOCK (ANZ WARREN bank records)

¹²⁷ OI – 7 – Missing Person display poster Ross WARREN (20/08/2001)

¹²⁸ ST – 46 – Statement of Constable Joanne WILLIAMS

¹²⁹ ST – 196 – Statement of Senior Sergeant Jeffrey EMERY (MPU)

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Ross WARREN

22/07/1989

Station. BOWDITCH outlined how they found WARREN's vehicle and later discovered his keys. BOWDITCH detailed Wollongong Police conducting a search of WARREN's residential unit and the subsequent outcome of no items being seized.

116. Interestingly BOWDITCH stated the following:

"There is nothing to suggest that Ross WARREN's disappearance was the result of foul play or a deliberate ploy on his part to disappear. He was highly regarded by his employers and amongst his friends, and our inquiries revealed that he appeared to enjoy a fruitful and happy lifestyle. The area where his vehicle and keys were found is well known to police as a homosexual beat, although I stress there is nothing to suggest that his disappearance is or was gay related. The area in question is near a footpath or coastal walkway frequently used by walkers and joggers of all ages at all hours of the day and night. The immediate area at that time was particularly slippery due to seeping water and moss which had been caused by recent rains. Inquiries I made at the time revealed that the expected time Ross WARREN was at Marks Park, there was a full moon, the tide was high and the night was overcast which would have effected visibility. There is a distinct possibility that Ross WARREN may have slipped on the rock ledge overlooking McKenzie's Bay. It was not unusual and is still not unusual to see people sitting on the rocks day or night. I inspected the scene during the initial investigation and I am extremely familiar with the area as I regularly walk between Bondi and Bronte."

NOTE: BOWDITCH stated he had a search of the surrounding ocean and foreshore by the Police Air wing and Water Police - Operation Taradale conducted inquiries to verify this, with no record found. BOWDITCH also stated he completed a brief of evidence which was filed at the missing person unit; this was also checked with no brief located.

Identifying witnesses

117. Operation Taradale investigators dedicated time to identifying witnesses who were associated with WARREN. Investigators obtained statements or conducted electronically recorded interviews with witnesses. Unfortunately the content of these statements did not include the following detail - the type of person WARREN was, who he associated with and the lifestyle he lived. The witness statements only covered the peripheral of what a witness knew about WARREN, without divulging personal conversations with WARREN or observations of him.

Note: *The content of these statements was scarce; there was a clear absence of detail and chronological order. Unfortunately, investigators did not explore other hypotheses outside then the theory that WARREN's disappearance was youth gang related. As a result, a number of statements required revisiting by Strike Force Neiwand investigators.*

118. The following is a summary of the witness statements obtained from associates of WARREN by Operation Taradale –

Kerry KINGSTON

119. KINGSTON was the Managing Director of WIN4 TV at the time of WARREN's disappearance. KINGSTON stated WARREN was a well-liked member of staff, and he did not notice any change in behaviour with WARREN leading up to his disappearance.¹³⁰

Peter John Andrea

120. ANDREA was employed with WIN4 TV as a journalist. ANDREA stated he knew WARREN for approximately a year and knew him as a work colleague rather than a friend. ANDREA did recall a conversation with WARREN before his disappearance, while they were in the news room. ANDREA recalled asking WARREN what he was doing on an upcoming weekend. WARREN told ANDREA that he would be keeping a low profile on the weekend due to being caught out having a sexual relationship with a lady that was already in a relationship. WARREN further stated he had "picked up" this girl in Sydney. WARREN continued divulging to ANDREA that he had sex with this lady on a lounge. ANDREA recalled the suburb of Liverpool being mentioned. WARREN made comment that this lady's partner may know of the sexual relationship. ANDREA stated the name of the lady was not mentioned. This was the only personal matter that WARREN discussed with ANDREA. After WARREN's disappearance, ANDREA recalled rumours circulating that Ross WARREN was gay.¹³¹

Susan ELELMAN

121. ELELMAN met WARREN in the 1987, when WARREN commenced working at WIN4 TV. ELELMAN stated in 1988 she left WIN4 to work for Channel 7 Network in Sydney but kept in touch with WARREN. ELELMAN stated from time to time she would inform WARREN of when job vacancies would arise. ELELMAN stated it was about April 1989 when she last spoke with WARREN about a job vacancy in Sydney with Channel 7. ELELMAN further stated WARREN sounded very keen to move to Sydney and expand his career and that he was very career oriented and full of life. WARREN did state to ELELMAN that he was concerned his homosexuality would jeopardise his career. ELELMAN concluded that she was informed WARREN's disappearance was a suicide, to which she thought "no way there must be more in it".¹³²

Christine JONES

122. In 2002 a further statement was obtained from JONES. She was one of two employees (ROSSINI being the other), spoken to in 1989¹³³ following WARREN's disappearance. In her last statement JONES stated WARREN had informed her that he ended the relationship with 'Ken' as he didn't want to be part of a love triangle and preferred 'Ken' not contact him. JONES concluded with an emphasis that WARREN wouldn't commit suicide; she bases this on the fact he had just registered his vehicle and had a close relationship with his parents.¹³⁴

¹³⁰ ST – 7 – Statement of Kerry KINGSTON

¹³¹ ST – 84 – Statement of Peter John ANDREA

¹³² ST – 140 – Statement of Susie ELELMAN

¹³³ ST – 25 – Statement of Christine JONES (26/07/21989)

¹³⁴ ST – 154 – Statement of Christine JONES (24/04/2002)

Craig ELLIS

123. On the 25/09/2000, Operation Taradale investigators obtained a statement from Craig ELLIS. This was the first statement obtained from ELLIS. ELLIS provided a background into his relationship with WARREN and how they met in April 1988 at Marks Park. Following their sexual encounter, the pair commenced a relationship that lasted approximately 2 months. After the relationship ended they maintained a friendship. ELLIS stated in 1989 he lived at [REDACTED] Albert Street, Redfern with Amanda EVANS and was in a relationship with Paul SAUCIS.¹³⁵
124. ELLIS stated, between 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Friday 21/07/1989 WARREN arrived at his home at [REDACTED] Albert Street, Redfern for his weekend visit to Sydney. ELLIS was expecting WARREN to stay at his residence for the weekend. ELLIS described WARREN as wearing shoes, jeans and a turtle neck sloppy joe and jacket. After spending a short time at ELLIS' apartment, WARREN made some phone calls (one call was to ROSSINI) to make arrangements for a night out. WARREN left ELLIS' residence about 11:00pm to have drinks with a ROSSINI at Oxford Street. ELLIS and SAUCIS were invited but declined to accompany WARREN. Arrangements were made for the trio to go see a movie on Saturday (22/07/1989) evening. This was the last time ELLIS saw WARREN.
125. By Sunday 24/07/1989, ELLIS had not heard from or seen WARREN, due to his concerns he attended Mackenzie's Point with SAUCIS to search for WARREN, only to find WARREN's vehicle. ELLIS attended Paddington Police Station to report WARREN missing.
126. On Monday 24/07/1989, ELLIS returned to Mackenzie's Point to continue his search for WARREN. ELLIS searched the cliff base and located WARREN's car keys on a nearby rock shelf. ELLIS concluded that he hadn't seen or heard from WARREN and believes he would not have committed suicide.¹³⁶
127. On the 02/08/2001, ELLIS participated in an electronically recorded interview (on video) regarding his movements following WARREN's disappearance.¹³⁷ During this recorded interview ELLIS indicated to Police the location where he found WARREN's car, (outside number 24 Kenneth St, Tamarama). ELLIS sighted a photograph showing a brown Nissan Pulsar. ELLIS also indicated the general area where he found WARREN's keys in 1989 and where the pair met in 1988.¹³⁸ A further statement was obtained from ELLIS clarifying his contact details (phone number in 1989) and whether he spoke to Phillip ROSSINI on the night WARREN disappeared.

Paul 'Pavlos' SAUCIS

128. On the 25/09/2000, a statement was obtained from Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS, former partner of Craig ELLIS and friend of Ross WARREN.¹³⁹
129. SAUCIS stated he met WARREN through his ex-partner ELLIS. SAUCIS described WARREN as a friendly and good-natured person. SAUCIS corroborated the information provided by ELLIS in his

¹³⁵ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (04/10/2000)

¹³⁶ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (04/10/2000)

¹³⁷ REC – 2 – Craig ELLIS and David MCMAHON walkthrough

¹³⁸ REC – 2 – Craig ELLIS and David MCMAHON walkthrough

¹³⁹ ST – 6 – Statement of Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS

statement. SAUCIS stated WARREN attended 14 Albert Street, Redfern and met with ELLIS and himself between 7:00pm and 8:00pm. WARREN soon left the Redfern address to have drinks with a friend. SAUCIS stated he and ELLIS were invited but declined. The trio were to catch up the following evening to watch a movie.¹⁴⁰

130. WARREN was to stay at that address for the weekend, but failed to return after going out. SAUCIS stated WARREN didn't attend the movies either. SAUCIS recalled ELLIS reporting WARREN missing at Paddington Police Station. SAUCIS and ELLIS search for WARREN around Marks Park, where they find WARREN's vehicle. SAUCIS stated he doesn't believe WARREN committed suicide and has not seen or heard from WARREN since that night.¹⁴¹

Kingi 'Ken' MARSH (Electronically recorded interview)

131. Operation Taradale investigators followed up on inquiries conducted in 1990 in locating MARSH. Investigators conducted checks on the NSW Police COPS, NSW RTA system, Department of Immigration and with New Zealand Police. From these inquiries 'Ken' was identified as Kingi Tyrone MARSH, DOB: [REDACTED].¹⁴²

132. On 31/01/2002, MARSH was interviewed at Waverley Police Station. During this interview MARSH provided investigators with a background about his association with WARREN. MARSH stated WARREN would come up to Sydney from Wollongong on occasion and would sometimes stay with him and his then partner Michael MATHISON at their unit in Victoria St, Potts Point, but did not do so on the weekend of his disappearance. MARSH was unable to provide a consistent version of events in relation to whether he saw WARREN on the weekend of his disappearance. MARSH denied he and WARREN were involved in a sexual relationship. MARSH stated he knew of Derrick, who was a possibly a prostitute (later confirmed as Derrick HUTCHINSON) and Craig ELLIS, but he had never met them.¹⁴³

Michael MATHISON

133. Queensland Police assisted Operation Taradale investigators in locating and obtaining a statement from MARSH's former partner, Michael MATHISON.

134. MATHISON confirmed he was in a relationship with MARSH at the time of WARREN's disappearance and stated he met WARREN through MARSH. MATHISON stated WARREN would come up to Sydney from Wollongong approximately every fortnight and would stay with other friends who MATHISON believed to be a gay couple. MATHISON further stated when WARREN was in Sydney arrangements would be made for the group to go out to gay venues in Darlinghurst or WARREN would come to their place in Potts Point. MATHISON recalled MARSH receiving a phone call from someone enquiring about WARREN's whereabouts.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁰ ST – 6 – Statement of Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS

¹⁴¹ ST – 6 – Statement of Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS

¹⁴² OD – 255 - OP Taradale Files related to Kingi MARSH

¹⁴³ ER – 20 – ERISP transcript: Kingi MARSH: 27/03/2002

¹⁴⁴ ST – 183 – Statement of Michael MATHISON (14/06/2002)

135. MATHISON outlined that he and MARSH ended their relationship and that he held suspicions that MARSH and WARREN may have been lovers in the past. **MATHISON believed WARREN often seemed depressed about not being in a relationship and he held the belief that WARREN may have committed suicide.**¹⁴⁵

Greg FERGUSON

136. Operation Taradale investigators revisited the 1994 Greg FERGUSON line of inquiry to confirm if he was in fact abroad at the time WARREN disappeared. Inspector MURDOCH conducted checks with Qantas Security Management and confirmed that FERGUSON was out of the country from the morning of the 20/07/1989 to 24/07/1989. Operation Taradale conducted similar checks with Qantas Management and confirmed that FERGUSON was out of the country from the morning of the 20/07/1989 to 24/07/1989.¹⁴⁶ Operation Taradale investigators obtained a statement from FERGUSON, who himself, was a former partner of Ross WARREN. FERGUSON stated he first met WARREN in 1988 at the Channel 7 studios. FERGUSON stated he was in a heterosexual relationship before he commenced a homosexual relationship with WARREN. This coincided with FERGUSON meeting [198] and other associates of WARREN, all of whom were homosexual.¹⁴⁷

137. FERGUSON stated WARREN would occasionally stay at a unit in Bellevue Hill which he shared with his friend Derrick (unknown surname Ansett flight attendant – believed to be Derrick HUTCHINSON). FERGUSON stated he dated WARREN for approximately 6 weeks. FERGUSON further stated they would go to Mackenzie's Point. They would sit on the sandstone wall and consume alcohol and talk. FERGUSON stated at the time he attended Mackenzie's Point no one approached them and he did not notice anyone around. FERGUSON was of the belief WARREN was not into 'gay beats'. [REDACTED]

NOTE: *Amyl nitrate was first synthesised as an antidote for poison and to lower blood pressure, and angina, but quickly became a well-used party drug. Amyl nitrite is the most well-known of a group of chemicals called alkyl nitrites, usually referred to as 'Poppers.' Poppers are an inhalant. The most common method of use is to hold an open bottle to your nose and breathe in hard, this relaxes muscles in the body. The affective rush of the drug is immediate and can last between 10 and 15 minutes.*

Use of poppers is more common among the LGBTIQ community and people who use other party drugs. Poppers are often taken during sex and are known to exaggerate an orgasm. The drug's effects can make it easier for people to have anal sex by helping to relax the anal sphincter muscles, although some men find they cannot get an erection after taking poppers. Even though poppers are taken to enhance experiences, they are a depressant drug like alcohol, because they slow down the central nervous system and reduce alertness. Poppers are not addictive and not poisonous, however, if swallowed, can cause coma or even death. Combining amyl nitrite use with other drugs or alcohol can be fatal.

¹⁴⁵ ST – 183 – Statement of Michael MATHISON (14/06/2002)

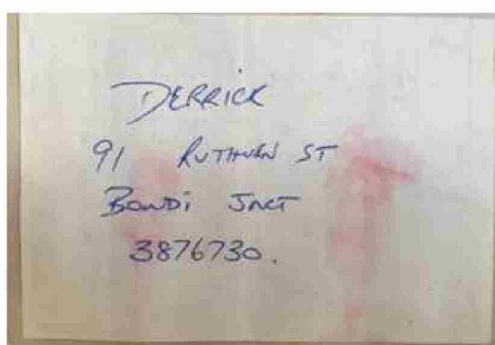
¹⁴⁶ IN – 161 – Enquiries with DAVENPORT – Qantas: G. FERGUSON

¹⁴⁷ ST – 17 – Statement of Gregory FERGUSON

138. FERGUSON also stated that WARREN ended the relationship in early 1989, due to him being 'too clingy' and smothering. FERGUSON expressed he was upset about the break up. He would see WARREN from time to time but they didn't talk. FERGUSON stated the only friends of WARREN's he met were [198], 'Derrick' and an ex-police officer (later identified as Darren CHADWICK). (FERGUSON believes this person quit to become a flight attendant). FERGUSON believes he was away when WARREN went missing.¹⁴⁸

Derrick HUTCHINSON

139. On the 23/04/2002, Operation Taradale investigators located, Derrick HUTCHINSON, 'Derrick' whose details were found handwritten on a piece of paper located inside WARREN's wallet.¹⁴⁹ An image of this exhibit is depicted below -



Handwritten note found in WARREN's wallet in 1989

140. A statement was obtained from HUTCHINSON. HUTCHINSON provided a background into how he came to meet WARREN (Gay beat on the Gold Coast about 1983/1984). Despite the pair moving away from Queensland they maintained their friendship over the years, till WARREN's disappearance in 1989. HUTCHINSON stated in 1989 he lived in Sydney and WARREN would visit him when in Sydney. HUTCHINSON stated he worked at Green Park Diner at Taylors Square. WARREN would attend the diner and the pair would go out to venues such as 'The Midnight Shift' after HUTCHINSON finished work. HUTCHINSON stated WARREN would frequent gay beats but was adamant on not being in a relationship and keeping his sexuality secret. HUTCHINSON was shown the piece of paper with his name and address, HUTCHINSON agreed this was his handwriting and the piece of paper was a used at Green Park diner.¹⁵⁰

Revisiting the crime scene

141. Operation Taradale conducted video walkthroughs with Craig ELLIS and David McMAHON. As previously mentioned Operation Taradale investigators held a strong reliance on the version of

¹⁴⁸ ST – 17 – Statement of Gregory FERGUSON

¹⁴⁹ PH – 6 – Piece of paper with Derrick contact details

¹⁵⁰ ST – 145 – Statement of Derrick HUTCHINSON (23/04/2002)

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Ross WARREN

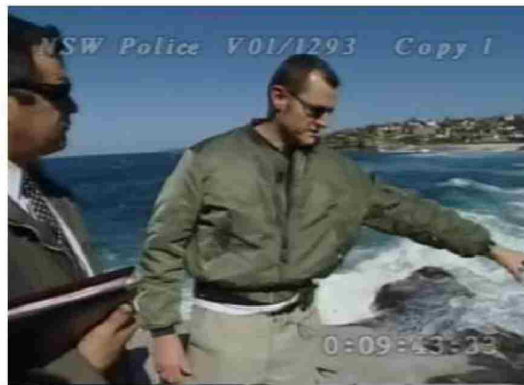
22/07/1989

events McMAHON provided Police. As such investigators utilised the incident involving McMAHON not as a possible hypothesis, but more of a likely occurrence, which resulted in WARREN's disappearance.¹⁵¹

142. The following images are from the video walk through conducted with Craig ELLIS on the 02/08/2001 at Mackenzie's Point.



Ellis points out the location of where he found WARREN's car on the 23rd July 1989



ELLIS describing how he reached the keys and the height the keys was compared with his body

Search for WARREN's remains

143. On 8/08/2001, Senior Constables Alex BARRELL, MORRIS, BUSBY and LISLE of the Diving Unit conducted an underwater search (below the waterline) of the rock face and seabed off the coast of Marks Park, Tamarama. The police divers recovered two metal bars during their dive on the 8/08/ 2001. Despite the two metal bars being seized by police they held no evidentiary value.

144. On 15/08/2001, Police Divers returned to the location off Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park, Tamarama; and conducted a further underwater search. On this occasion, nothing of interest was located.

145. On 16/08/2001, the Police divers conducted another search of the area off Marks Park, nothing of interest was located. Further diving operations in the area were conducted on 18/08/2001, 17/09/2001 and 17/01/2002; with nothing of significance being located. All the searches were conducted in sequence from the original starting point, being the north-western corner of Mackenzie's Point in line with Marks Road, Bondi.¹⁵²

Costal geomorphology

146. Operation Taradale utilised the expertise of Doctor Robert BRANDER from the University of New South Wales. Doctor BRANDER is an expert in the field of costal geomorphology. In this statement

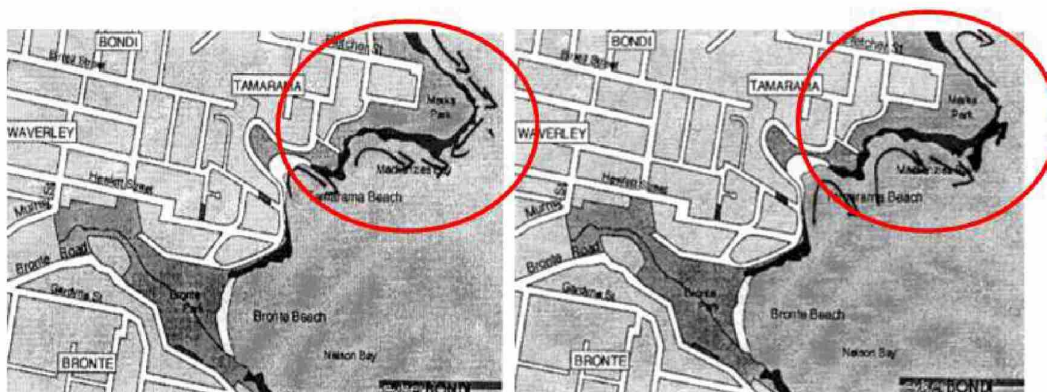
¹⁵¹ REC – 2 – Craig ELLIS and David McMAHON walkthrough

¹⁵² ST – 142 – Statement of Senior Constable Alex BARRELL (Police Diving Unit)

Dr BRANDER provided an expert opinion on the submarine terrain of Mackenzie's Point and the water activity around this area.

147. On the 01/08/2001, Dr BRANDER provided his first statement to Police. In this statement Dr BRANDER listed his qualifications and the fact he completed a thesis on measurement and behaviour of rip currents. His research continues into wave, current and sediment movement in the surf zone. In 1993 Dr BRANDER conducted studies at Palm Beach which has a comparable rip system to Sydney's Eastern Beaches (Mackenzie's Point). Dr BRANDER stated he was an active member of Tamarama Surf Club, and was previously resident caretaker at the club and is familiar with the area as he has snorkelled extensively around Tamarama and Mackenzie's Bay.

148. Dr BRANDER was familiar with submarine topography, rock platforms, caves and currents, particularly around the Bondi and Tamarama area. Dr BRANDER was familiar with the pattern of waves and currents in Mackenzie's Bay and Tamarama during periods of sand surplus and deficit and the cyclic behaviour of surf zone. Dr BRANDER stated in his expert opinion the nature of waves and their movements is based on energy levels, which he believes any inward water movement would have equal outward water. Dr BRANDER further stated his opinion on the different rip currents around Mackenzie's Point, stating that rip currents on beaches and headlands are quite different. Rips on beaches tend to form in channels between sand bars, whereas on a headland water is forced to one side by the dominant angle of wave approach and the rip flows against the headland and does not necessarily occupy a channel in the sea bed. Dr BRANDER described the bottom topography around Mackenzie's Bay as being sand with boulders at the base of the rock platform.¹⁵³ Dr BRANDER outlined his examination of wave measurement data, synoptic charts, tidal data and synoptic observations. Dr BRANDER surmised that in his professional opinion a body immersed in water off the rock shelf (or on the bed) would not move landward. Based on the opinion of Dr BRANDER Operation Taradale Investigators firmed their belief that WARREN's body was swept out to sea. The images from Dr BRANDER's statement depict the wave and wind energy movements around Mackenzie's Point on 21 & 22/07/1989.¹⁵⁴



The red arrows point out the varying tidal movements along the shoreline as indicated in Dr BRANDER's statement

¹⁵³ ST – 43 – Statement of Doctor Robert BRANDER (01/08/2001)

¹⁵⁴ ST – 127 – Statement of Doctor Robert BRANDER (11/04/2002)

Exhibits

149. The only identified exhibits retained following WARREN's disappearance were those booked up in Miscellaneous Property Book A150422, by Constable BOURIS at Bondi Police Station.¹⁵⁵ These items were re-entered as exhibits and stored in long term exhibits at Paddington Police Station. *(They were later transferred to the Metropolitan Exhibit and Property Centre).*

Bureau of Meteorology

150. On the 08/01/2001, Matthew BASTIN, Officer-in-Charge, Climate and Consultancy Section, NSW Regional Office, from the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology provided Operation Taradale investigators with a statement and records referencing the rainfall levels around Mackenzie's Point. The records are rainfall observations from the closest area around the Bondi/Tamarama area.¹⁵⁶

151. The closest recordings are, Rainfall Observations for Rose Bay, Centennial Park, Watsons Bay, Randwick Racecourse for the date period – 19/07/1989 through to the 24/07/1989 –

- a) Nil rainfall recorded at Rose Bay, Centennial Park, Watsons Bay and Randwick Racecourse for 21/07/1989 and 22/07/1989
- b) The synoptic observations for Sydney Airport and Sydney Observatory Hill was fine for 21/07/1989-22/07/1989

Investigation Targets

152. Operation Taradale's focus was to target members of the youth gangs that frequented the Bondi/Tamarama area. Consideration was given to those charged with gay hate related offences in the 1989 and 1990 period. This direction was not an original hypothesis formed by Operation Taradale investigators; it was merely a continuation of the investigation conducted by Former Detective Sergeant McCANN. The individuals targeted by Operation Taradale investigators are listed in their respective groups–

Alexandria 8

153. The group known as the 'Alexandria 8' were those convicted of the gay hate related murder and or manslaughter of Richard JOHNSON in Alexandria Park, Alexandria on 24th January 1990.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| I. [NP19] (DOB: [REDACTED]) | V. [NP21] (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| (now deceased) | VI. [NP20] (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| II. [NP18] (DOB: [REDACTED]) | VII. [NP17] (DOB: [REDACTED]) |

¹⁵⁵ ST – 33 – Statement of Constable Evan BOURIS

¹⁵⁶ ST – 242 – Statement of Matthew BASTIN re weather BOM

- III. [NP16] (DOB: [REDACTED]) VIII. [NP15] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 IV. [NP41] (DOB: [REDACTED])

Associates of Alexandria 8 members

- I. [NP51] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 II. [NP44] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 III. [NP42] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 IV. [NP75] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 V. [NP76] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 VI. [NP77] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 VII. [NP78] (DOB: [REDACTED])

'PSK' Park Side Killers

154. The group 'PSK' was a group that were known for graffiti offences and loitered around the Maroubra and Randwick areas. Some of the members of this group were associates of the 'Alexandria 8'.

- I. [NP79] (DOB: [REDACTED]) V. [NP83] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 II. [NP80] (DOB: [REDACTED]) VI. [NP84] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 III. [NP81] (DOB: [REDACTED]) VII. [NP85] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 IV. [NP82] (DOB: [REDACTED]) VIII. [NP86] (DOB: [REDACTED])

Tamarama 3

155. The 'Tamarama 3' consisted of males convicted of the murder/manslaughter of Thai national Kritchikorn RATTANAJURATHAPORN and the assault and robbery of Jeffrey SULLIVAN on the coastal walkway at Mackenzie's Point Tamarama on the 21st of July 1990.

- I. [NP23] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 II. [NP22] (DOB: [REDACTED])
 III. [NP24] (DOB: [REDACTED])

'PTK' Prime Time Kings – Bondi Boys

156. 'PTK' or the 'Bondi Boys' were a group responsible for much of the antisocial behaviour and crime committed around the beach front area in 1989/1990. Although the group was large in number it had two sub groups within it, these being, the younger members of the group more known as 'PTK', as this was a graffiti tag they used when defacing walls. The older members of the group were referred to as the 'Bondi Boys'.

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- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| I. | Sean CUSHMAN (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXI. | NP101 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| II. | NP53 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXII. | NP135 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| III. | NP54 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXIII. | NP102 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| IV. | NP87 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXIV. | NP103 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| V. | NP88 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXV. | NP104 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| VI. | NP56 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXVI. | NP75 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| VII. | NP89 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXVII. | NP105 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| VIII. | NP55 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXVIII. | NP106 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| IX. | NP90 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXIX. | NP107 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| X. | NP91 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXX. | NP108 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XI. | NP92 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXI. | NP109 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XII. | NP93 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXII. | NP110 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XIII. | NP94 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | | Female members |
| XIV. | NP95 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXIII. | NP111 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XV. | NP96 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXIV. | NP112 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XVI. | NP97 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXV. | NP113 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XVII. | NP98 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXVI. | NP114 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XVIII. | NP99 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXVII. | NP115 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XIX. | NP100 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXVIII. | NP116 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |
| XX. | NP48 (DOB: [REDACTED]) | XXXIX. | NP117 (DOB: [REDACTED]) |

NOTE: NP57 was not associated with or a known member of the above groups, though in her interview with Police, NP57 stated she did know certain members of the "PTK" group. Information suggests NP57 used to hang around a group of males of Pacific Islander appearance from the Kings Cross area. This group is possibly "B.H.S."

B.H.S – Blacks Have Style

157. This group were mostly from the Hornsby area but were known to loiter around the El Alamein fountain in Kings Cross. This group were alleged to have committed robberies and assaults upon gay men.

- I. NP122 (leader)
- II. NP123
- III. NP118
- IV. NP119
- V. NP120
- VI. NP121

158. There was no direct evidence to link any person to the disappearance of WARREN.

Covert Phase – Telephone intercepts – Operation Wellington

159. Operation Taradale's main investigation strategy was to utilise covert methods by way of telephone intercepts. Investigators identified the telephone services of core members linked to a

number of local youth gangs from around the Bondi area. These persons of interest were then interviewed regarding the Ross WARREN disappearance and John RUSSELL death.¹⁵⁷

160. The covert phase of Operation Taradale was carried out with the assistance of the NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC). The NSWCC operation was titled as 'Wellington', the terms of reference for Operation Wellington were to assist Operation TARADALE with the investigation into the disappearance of Ross WARREN and the death of John RUSSELL. In 2001 the covert phase of the investigation commenced. During this period, Operation WELLINGTON intercepted and monitored 20 lines of persons of interests identified during Operation Taradale's inquiries. From this, approximately 17,022 telephone calls were lawfully intercepted.¹⁵⁸ During the review of the intercepted calls only fourteen (14) were deemed to have conversation relevant to Operation Taradale inquiries and later released to NSW Police for consideration.¹⁵⁹ It would appear the threshold of classifying a phone call as being relevant relied upon the conversations containing reference to the homicide investigation. The dates of the relevant phone calls coincided with the persons of interests being interviewed or spoken to by Police as a means to generate conversation.

161. From the telephone calls intercepted only 14 of these was conversation with content regarding 'gay bashings'. The persons of interests targeted in this operation were involved in assaults committed upon gay men but no admissions or references were made in relation to the death of WARREN. Of significance, the persons of interest either indicated they did not attend the lookout area of Mackenzie's Point or knew where the location of Marks Park was. Most of the intercepted conversations were exculpatory in nature. Further to the covert inquiries conducted, Operation Taradale carried out a covert operation on two of the three offenders convicted of the murder of Kritchikorn RATTANAJURATHAPORN.

Listening Device Operation

162. On the 11/12/2001, [REDACTED], [NP23] and [NP22] (still serving a custodial sentence for the murder of RATTANAJURATHAPORN), were transported to a cell at the Sydney Police Centre for the purposes of being interviewed by former Detective Sergeant PAGE regarding the disappearance of Ross WARREN and death of John RUSSELL.¹⁶⁰

163. From the transcript (only 50% of the recording could be transcribed, due to the poor quality of the listening device) it appears that Former Detective Sergeant PAGE [REDACTED]

¹⁵⁷ OD – 242 – Investigation Summary: Youth Gang theory, Completed by Detective Senior Constable Katherine TIERNEY

¹⁵⁸ OD – 226 – NSWCC – Operation WELLINGTON Transcript list for TI

¹⁵⁹ OD – 228 – NSWCC – Release of restricted records 17/12/2001 – 28/12/2001

¹⁶⁰ LD – 1 – Transcript of LD in [REDACTED] cell SPC 11/12/2001

¹⁶¹ LD – 1 – Transcript of LD in [REDACTED] cell SPC 11/12/2001

164. In addition, to generate media interest and conversation between the persons of interest, investigators conducted a number of media releases; one such release was to seek information in relation to the identity of 'Derrick'.¹⁶²

Investigative red herrings

165. As previously stated, due to WARREN's media profile, his disappearance became 'the face' of crimes committed against gay men. As a result, lines of inquiries were identified relating to individuals who claimed to have an association with WARREN or knowledge of his disappearance.

I88 a.k.a I88 Alias 1

166. In 2002 [I142] [I88] contacted Police regarding [I88]'s comments about WARREN's disappearance. As previously on the 03/10/1990 [I88] was interviewed by South Australia Police in relation to the disappearance of WARREN.

167. On the 31/10/2002, [I142] provided a statement to police regarding [I88] [I142] stated he met [I88] in 1997 at a World Aids Day benefit in Wollongong. The pair commenced a relationship around this time. In early December 1997, the pair went to a party together, and [I88] got very drunk. When they went back to [I142]'s place in North Ryde [I142] stated while they were lying in bed and [I88] started crying. [I88] then said to [I142] "Would you still love me or accept me if you knew I had done something really really bad?" [I142] said, "How bad?" [I88] went on to state that he had killed an ex-boyfriend. When asked who it was [I88] said it was a radio journalist/news reader, [I142] isn't sure which it was, there was also mention of the Gold Coast but [I142] can't recall why. [I142] dismissed what [I88] had told him as 'alcohol talking' as he was very inebriated, this was never discussed between them again. [I142] and [I88] broke up just before Christmas in 1997. In mid-2002 [I142] became aware of media attention on Ross WARREN's disappearance and thought this might have been what [I88] was talking about. He provided [I142] with two different versions of how he said he killed WARREN, which are not similar.¹⁶³ [I88]'s involvement in WARREN's disappearance appears to be highly improbable.

NP57

168. In 2001, Operation Taradale investigators conducted a covert operation with telephone intercepts. As a way of having [NP57] discuss these comments, contact was made via telephone to raise the topic of the investigation.

169. On the 19/12/2001, Police conducted an electronically recorded interview with [NP57] at Nowra Police Station. During this time [NP57] provided a background into her life in 1989. [NP57] stated she was under the influence of drugs, alcohol and in an abusive relationship. When asked about the conversation where she admitted to knowing about the murder of

¹⁶² OD – 72 – Police media release OP- Taradale 03/04/2002

¹⁶³ ST – 233 – Statement of [I142]

WARREN [NP57] stated it was untrue and she only said this to upset her then sister in law, [I143] as she liked WARREN. [NP57] denied being involved in or knowing anything in relation to the disappearance of WARREN, the murder of RUSSELL and attempted murder of David McMAHON.¹⁶⁴ [REDACTED]

“But fuck, I’m scared [REDACTED]...And the worst thing is, there’s fuckin’, I’ve got nothing to do with it...Like that’s what’s pissing me off. Like when they first called I thought...three people saying that I said fuckin’ I gave him a hiding and knew where he was or some shit, he reckons...I said to him, I said look, the only person that would have ever said that, I said would have been fuckin’ my brother’s ex girlfriend, I said and what I may or may not have said to fuckin’ her...I said is despite the fuckin’ fact, I...I’ve got nothing to do with this.”

170. [I144] [NP57]’s sister was also interviewed. [I144] stated to Police that that her brother, [REDACTED]’s ex-girlfriend [I143] had a crush on WARREN, [NP57] would goad [I143] by making outlandish remarks about being involved in WARREN’s disappearance. [I144] stated [NP57] had only spoken to her of being involved in 2 gay bashings, both being in Oxford Street. [I144] surmised that [NP57] was bisexual, and therefore would not have been involved in hate-crime.¹⁶⁵ As with [I188], other than [NP57]’s self-admission of being involved in WARREN’s death, there is no evidence to link her to the disappearance. [REDACTED]

Fingerprint examination

171. WARREN’s vehicle, NZC783 was examined for fingerprints by the Scientific Section following his disappearance in 1989. From that analysis, most of prints were identified as WARREN’s fingerprints. There were fingerprints that could not be identified, which were located on the audio cassette case and the rear of WARREN’s drivers licence.^{166 167}
172. On the 04/08/2001, Scientific Section compared the unidentified fingerprints to those on the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). The outstanding prints were found on the cassette tape found inside WARREN’s vehicle. Unfortunately, these remain unidentified.

No charges not laid

173. The limited investigative focus of Operation Taradale into the disappearance of WARREN, was to target youth gang members and their associates. Despite this, Operation Taradale investigators did thoroughly exhaust all avenues of investigating the hypothesis that WARREN and/or RUSSELL

¹⁶⁴ ER – 11 – ERISP of [NP57] (19/12/2001)

¹⁶⁵ ER – 9 – ERISP of [I144] (22/01/2002)

¹⁶⁶ ST – 177 – Statement of Detective Senior Constable Damien LIDDLE (05/06/2002)

¹⁶⁷ ST – 193 – Statement of Detective Senior Constable Damien LIDDLE (13/06/2002)

died because of a gay hate related attack, namely the persons of interest listed in sub topic – ‘Investigation Targets’. No charges were made in relation to these deaths.

Coronial Inquest

174. On 31/03/2003, the Inquest into the disappearances of Ross WARREN and Gilles MATTAINI and the death of John RUSSELL commenced at the Coroners Court, Glebe before Deputy State Coroner, Her Honour Justice MILLEDGE. In relation to WARREN’s disappearance, the Inquest heard evidence from friends, investigating Police, tidal experts and potential persons of interest.
175. On the 09/03/2005, the Inquest in relation to the disappearances of Ross WARREN and Gilles MATTIANI and death of John RUSSELL concluded at the NSW Coroners Court, Glebe by Deputy State Coroner MILLEDGE. During the Inquest, Her Honour criticised the lack of purposeful investigation by some of the original police investigator/s involved in the WARREN matter. Her Honour was critical of Detective Sergeant Ken BOWDITCH’s investigation, labelling it as inadequate. Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH claimed that he did compile a brief of evidence, which he believed was lost by the Missing Person Unit.¹⁶⁸ Her Honour acknowledged the investigation conducted by Operation TARADALE and its officer in charge, Former Detective Sergeant Stephen PAGE.
176. In relation to the disappearance of WARREN, Her Honour found as follows; *"That Ross Bradley WARREN died in Sydney on or about 22 July 1989. Whilst the cause and manner of death are unknown, I am satisfied that the deceased was a victim of homicide perpetrated by person or persons unknown."*¹⁶⁹ Her Honour also made various recommendations in relation to how police should investigate missing person’s cases and other related police procedures.¹⁷⁰

Strike Force Neiwand

The Re-investigation

177. In May 2016 Strike Force Neiwand was established to reinvestigate the suspicious disappearance and death of Giles MATTAINI from Bondi on 15/09/1985; the suspicious disappearance and death of Ross Bradley WARREN from Bondi on 22/07/1989 and; the suspected murder of John Alan RUSSELL at Bondi on 23/11/1989. With all reinvestigations into historical cases it is imperative to review all the evidence previously obtained over the course of the original investigation. In this case as there had been a reinvestigation (Operation Taradale). Investigators decided to conduct the review in two phases, a review of the material obtained from the original investigation and homicide investigation in 1989/1990 and then the evidence collated during Operation Taradale and the subsequent Inquest.

¹⁶⁸ TR – 16 – Inquest transcript 02/04/2003

¹⁶⁹ OD – 11 – 2005 Coronial findings: RUSSELL, WARREN and MATTIANI

¹⁷⁰ OD – 11 – 2005 Coronial findings: RUSSELL, WARREN and MATTIANI

178. The original investigation conducted by Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH into WARREN's disappearance was lacking in the following areas;

- a) Processing the crime scene – location of vehicle and rock shelf where the keys were located.
- b) Witness statements from associates were not obtained
- c) Failure to canvass streets around the Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park area.
- d) Failure to conduct Victimology into WARREN or the people he associated with.
- e) No retracing of WARREN's last known movement, conducting a canvass of the businesses along Oxford Street and
- f) No accurate records were kept of the inquiries made by investigating Police.

179. The investigative deficiencies relating to Operation Taradale included–

- a) 'Tunnel vision' imposed onto the investigation by focusing only on members of youth gangs, either from the Bondi area, or who had previously been charged with attacks on gay men, as a result no other hypothesis' was considered i.e. domestics and suicide
- b) Strong reliance on David McMAHON's version and identification
- c) Very little was done to learn more WARREN, as thorough victimology was not conducted
- d) Poor strategies implemented when covert methods were in place (ERISP)
- e) The disclosing and publicising of police methodology to witnesses and persons of interest (through the Inquest)

180. Unfortunately, Operation Taradale investigators disclosed covert police methodology to a number of the persons of interest. The main persons of interest [NP16], [NP19], [NP57], [NP57], Sean CUSHMAN, [NP23] and [NP22] gave evidence at the 2003 Coronial Inquest into the death of RUSSELL, and disappearances of MATTAINI and WARREN. There was no evidence or intelligence to link the persons of interest from the Operation Taradale operation with the disappearance of WARREN. That fact combined with the previous disclosure of police methodology to them was a crucial factor in SF Neiwand not focussing on the youth gang's theory. SF Neiwand investigators conducted thorough enquiries to establish a proper victimology of WARREN. SF Neiwand identified witnesses who had previously not supplied statements Ross WARREN's background, social groups and relationships became the primary line of enquiry. These topics had not been adequately explored in previous investigations.

Review of Operation Wellington telephone intercepts

181. SF Neiwand investigators conducted a review of the relevant intercepted phone calls and the transcripts obtained.¹⁷¹ From the telephone calls intercepted, fourteen were deemed as being relevant. There were no admissions made by the persons of interest or *inculpatory* evidence uncovered.

182. To the contrary, the relevant phone calls intercepted captured *exculpatory* evidence in that the Persons of interests denied any involvement or knowledge about the disappearance and suspected death of Ross WARREN. The persons of interest conceded that as youths they did break

¹⁷¹ TI 1 to TI 30 – NSWCC – TI transcripts.....

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the law (break and entering, loitering and malicious damage), but the accusation of being involved in a murder was one they vehemently denied. Intercepted phone calls of several female persons of interest indicated that they were quite emotional about the fact they were being accused of being involved in a murder.

183. During lawfully intercepted telephone conversations the persons of interests indicated that they congregated around the Bondi Beach huts as opposed to the lookout area of Mackenzie's Point.

184. A notebook entry of Constable BISHOP from Bondi Police Station at '1:08am on 21/7/1989', [around the time of or just prior to WARREN's disappearance] relates to Police stopping [NP98] [NP98] who was with four other unknown males at Bondi Park. The incident is recorded as [NP98] urinating in a public place.

185. Bondi Park is approximately 1km from Mackenzie's Point.¹⁷² (See image below)¹⁷³ The persons of interest all indicated that they would only loiter around two locations within the Bondi area, these being the Bondi pavilion and the beach huts along Bondi beach. The following map shows the Bondi Pavilion, the beach huts and Mackenzie's Point circled.



Aerial map from Google maps – Circled are Marks Park/McKenzie's Point, Bondi Pavilion & the beach huts

¹⁷² OD – 229 – Notebook entry of Constable BISHOP re: [NP98]

¹⁷³ Aerial image from Google maps

WARREN family

186. In 2016, Ross Warren's mother Kay Warren was contacted and notified of an upcoming media release about a reinvestigation into Ross' disappearance. Kay was also informed that a review was being conducted by the Unsolved Homicide Team.
187. As part of collating a detailed victimology, investigators opted to obtain statements from WARREN's siblings, as no statements had been previously obtained. It was also decided to also obtain a follow up statement from Kay WARREN.
188. On the 28/06/2017 Strike Force Neiwand investigators travelled to Queensland to meet with members of the WARREN family.

Kelli-Maree CHUTER

189. In her statement to Police, Kellie Maree CHUTTER provided information which was previously not known; CHUTTER was twenty-two years old when WARREN went missing. [REDACTED] CHUTTER shared a close relationship with Ross; the pair would go out in Broadbeach, Queensland when he came to visit the family. While living in Wollongong, WARREN would speak with CHUTTER on the phone once or twice a week. CHUTTER stated that she recalled WARREN mentioning Wollongong was boring in terms of nightlife and he loved going out in Sydney.¹⁷⁴

NOTE: This corroborated information obtained by Strike Force Neiwand that WARREN did not frequent the Wollongong social scene. It also discounted any information that [REDACTED] 188 [REDACTED] previously provided in that he knew WARREN.

190. CHUTTER also stated that prior to WARREN's disappearance he was being considered for a position as a newsreader at Channel 10 in Sydney and was very excited at this opportunity to further his career. She believed when he went missing he hadn't yet had the interview. CHUTTER stated she was not aware WARREN was a homosexual until after his disappearance. CHUTTER stated the last time she spoke with WARREN was early in the evening on Friday or Saturday night on the weekend he disappeared. CHUTTER recalled WARREN telling her he was at home and about to drive to Sydney.¹⁷⁵

Kay WARREN – 28/06/2017

191. Kay WARREN provided statements to Queensland Police on the 15/07/1991 and 26/08/2001. The current statement was obtained to capture not only the information she had provided in 1991 and 2001 but to also expand on areas that weren't clarified. Kay stated Ross was her eldest child,

¹⁷⁴ ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli-Maree CHUTER

¹⁷⁵ ST – 264 – Statement of Kelli-Maree CHUTER

¹⁷⁶ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/06/2017)

192. Kay provided a background into Ross' upbringing and schooling life. Kay also provided an insight into the path Ross took which led him to attaining the weatherman position at WIN4 TV. Kay recalled Ross had a job opportunity with another TV station before he disappeared. *Kay was of the belief that Ross didn't get the job.* Kay stated she learnt of Ross' sexuality from him. Kay stated this followed Ross being caught by Police for being at a beat in Queensland. Kay stated she sought professional help for Ross in an effort to change his sexuality. Initially Ross was willing to see if he could "change". Kay stated soon enough, she, her husband and Ross accepted his sexuality. Kay stated that Ross would have regular AIDS checks and he was always cleared.¹⁷⁷

Craig WARREN

193. Craig stated he was the youngest of 3 children to Alan and Kay WARREN, [REDACTED]. Craig provided a background into the family's upbringing and his relationship with Ross. Craig explained that he had a good relationship with Ross but they were just not communicative. In later years, they did not see much of each other.¹⁷⁸

194. Craig stated that in 1987 Ross informed him of his sexuality. This did not impact their relationship. Craig was unaware of any relationships Ross had. Craig also stated Ross never mentioned to him anything about gay beats, apart from discussing the Gay Mardi Gras and Ross going out in Sydney. Craig further stated that in 1988, he and his then girlfriend, Sue AULD, moved to Sydney and lived in the Bondi/Bondi Junction area. Craig believes he was only in Sydney for approximately 1 year before returning to the Gold Coast. This was months before Ross' disappearance in 1989. Craig also stated that during his time living in Sydney he did not meet with Ross or have much contact with him. The last time Craig saw Ross was Christmas 1988. Craig believed the last time he spoke to Ross was approximately a month before his disappearance. Craig was not involved in any search inquiries and did not speak with police after Ross' disappearance.¹⁷⁹

Staff at WIN4 Television

195. The information obtained from WARREN's work colleagues indicated he was always concerned about the effect his homosexuality would have on his career, WARREN had two distinct groups within the WIN4 TV workplace.

196. [a] Colleagues he maintained a professional relationship with colleagues where personal information wasn't shared, this included staff members like, **Mary PAPAKOSMAS nee FRANKS**¹⁸⁰ (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Kerry KINGSTON**¹⁸¹ (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Peter ANDREA**¹⁸² (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Danny MITROVIC**¹⁸³ (DOB: [REDACTED]), **Michael REDMAN**¹⁸⁴ (DOB: [REDACTED]) and **Priscilla**

¹⁷⁷ ST – 265 – Statement of Kay WARREN (28/06/2017)

¹⁷⁸ ST – 266 – Statement of Craig WARREN

¹⁷⁹ ST – 266 – Statement of Craig WARREN

¹⁸⁰ ST – 260 – Statement of Mary PAPAKOSMAS

¹⁸¹ ST – 7 – Statement of Kerry KINGSTON

¹⁸² ST – 84 – Statement of Peter ANDREA

¹⁸³ ST – 248 – Statement of Danny MITROVIC

¹⁸⁴ ST – 249 – Statement of Michael REDMAN

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ASLANIDIS¹⁸⁵ (DOB: [REDACTED]). These colleagues were not aware of his homosexuality and it was apparent that WARREN maintained a professional image, with staff knowing little about his personal life.

197.[b] The other group of employees that shared a friendlier relationship rather than a formal one was, Phillip ROSSINI¹⁸⁶ (DOB: [REDACTED]), Christine JONES^{187 188} (DOB: [REDACTED] – died [REDACTED]) and Susie ELELMAN¹⁸⁹ (DOB: [REDACTED]) (former employee of WIN TV). These colleagues shared a more personal friendship with him. WARREN spoke of his personal life more and confided in ELELMAN and JONES. As previously mentioned, it was with JONES that WARREN disclosed his relationship with a male named 'Ken'.¹⁹⁰ ROSSINI was aware that WARREN was a homosexual, as the two frequented gay bars together.¹⁹¹

[REDACTED]
198

198. In 1989 [REDACTED] 198 was a 35-year-old (DOB: [REDACTED]) gay male who lived at [REDACTED] White Street Balmain. [REDACTED] 198 was older than the rest of the males in this group. He used his terrace house to host dinner parties. [REDACTED] 198 was a flight attendant for Qantas International and was in a relationship with [REDACTED] 1145 in 1989.¹⁹² [REDACTED] 198 informed investigators he was a friend of WARREN's and nominated Greg FERGUSON as a person of interest in WARREN's disappearance.

199. SF Neiwand investigators confirmed that FERGUSON was abroad at the time WARREN disappeared with QANTAS.¹⁹³

200. On the 30/03/2017, during a meeting with police [REDACTED] 198 described WARREN as being a private and quiet person and although he was a friend the pair were not close. [REDACTED] 198 described how the beat at Mackenzie's Point operated. [REDACTED] 198 stated he was introduced to gay beats by his ex-partner, [REDACTED] 1145.

201. [REDACTED] 198 first went to Mackenzie's Point/Marks Parked around 1987 and continued to do so until late 1989. He explained that he attended the Marks Park gay beat 'at least once a week for at least 3 to 4 hours until he found someone 'nice'. [REDACTED] 198 did not encounter any violence or gangs during his visits to Mackenzie's Point. [REDACTED] 198 recalled noticing that if something wasn't right, he would see numerous men walking away from Marks Park. He interpreted this to be 'not right to be there.' [REDACTED] 198 did state that he had heard of violence towards gay men at beats (which was around the 1960's and 1970's) and because of this he carried nun chucks (ninja weapon). [REDACTED] 198 further stated there were two types of people who he and others like him feared, they were groups of males and Police.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁵ ST – 252 – Statement of Priscilla ASLANDIS

¹⁸⁶ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

¹⁸⁷ ST – 25 – Statement of Christine JONES (26/07/1989)

¹⁸⁸ ST – 154 – Statement of Christine JONES (24/04/2002)

¹⁸⁹ ST – 140 – Statement of Susie ELELMAN

¹⁹⁰ ST – 25 – Statement of Christine JONES (26/07/21989)

¹⁹¹ ST – 26 – Statement of Phillip ROSSINI

¹⁹² ST – 247 – Statement of [REDACTED] 198

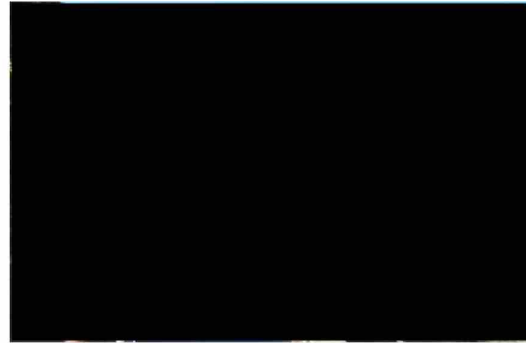
¹⁹³ IN – 164 – Info consistent with FERGUSON overseas during murder

¹⁹⁴ IN – 182 – Contact with [REDACTED] 198

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202. [198] stated he would usually walk the coastal path, and generally if he were to engage in sex it would occur on the rock ledge just off the pathway or the bush area, again off the walk path. [198] further stated that although it was unlikely to occur at the rock shelf, he did have one encounter at the rock shelf near Tamarama beach. [198] remembered mentioning to WARREN that he had been going to the Mackenzie's Point gay beat and he found WARREN to be judgemental of him for engaging in such an act. When attending beats [198] didn't know, or expect to know, anyone there. [198] would park his vehicle either North of Marks Park (possibly Knox St) and near Marks Park (Possibly Marks Lane and Kenneth Street).¹⁹⁵
203. On the 05/05/2017 Police conducted a walkthrough of Mackenzie's Point with [198]. [198] indicated areas around Mackenzie's Point that formed part of the gay beat and explained where men would engage in anonymous sex.¹⁹⁶



Still shots from video recording of walkthrough conducted with [198] – the still shots show the areas around Marks Park where men would engage in anonymous sex according to [198]

204. The information that [198] provided did not progress the investigation in relation to the circumstances surrounding WARREN's disappearance.

Amanda EVANS

205. In 1989, Amanda EVANS, DOB: [REDACTED] lived at [REDACTED] Albert Street, Redfern with Craig ELLIS, who she met in high school and maintained a friendship with.
206. On 02/06/2017, Strike Force Neiwand investigators travelled to Auckland, New Zealand where they met with EVANS and obtained a statement.¹⁹⁷ Investigators believe the information provided by EVANS is unreliable as it is unable to be independently corroborated.
207. It appears her time line of events surrounding WARREN's disappearance is confused with another occasion when WARREN visited. The inconsistencies relate to the time and days surrounding WARREN's attendance at the Redfern address. EVANS did state she had a dislike for SAUCIS. This stemmed from his controlling nature towards ELLIS. Her dislike of SAUCIS became clear when she

¹⁹⁵ IN – 182 – Contact with [198]

¹⁹⁶ REC – 8 – Walkthrough with [198]

¹⁹⁷ ST – 255 – Statement of Amanda EVANS

downplayed his involvement in the search for WARREN. This has been independently verified that ELLIS and SAUCIS were equally concerned for WARREN and conducted their own search inquiries.

Revisiting of witnesses

208. During the review of previously obtained statements, a number of associates were identified as potentially having vital information in piecing together the events surrounding and following WARREN's disappearance. These associates provided previously unknown information that assisted SF Neiwand investigators. Unfortunately, these witnesses were unable to provide any information that could further the investigation.

Craig ELLIS

209. In 1989 Craig ELLIS was a 23-year-old (DOB: [REDACTED]) New Zealand national who resided in a unit at 14 Albert Street, Redfern with his roommate, Amanda EVANS. ELLIS was a gay male who frequented gay beats. It was during a trip to Sydney, Australia in 1985 that ELLIS found out about the Marks Park gay beat. In the opinion of ELLIS, Marks Park was one of the better-known beats in Sydney. He based this on the fact of it being safer than being caught in a toilet block.¹⁹⁸ In Easter 1988 ELLIS met WARREN at the Marks Park. ELLIS stated during this encounter he invited WARREN back to his place. The pair commenced an intimate relationship for about 2 months before WARREN ended it. They remained close friends.

210. ELLIS and WARREN would call each other frequently. WARREN would stay with ELLIS in Sydney at least once a month. Usually, WARREN would arrive on a Friday night and leave on Sunday. At the time of WARREN's disappearance, ELLIS was in a relationship with a male named, Pavlos 'Paul' SAUCIS, who at the time was 28 years old. The pair met in September 1988 and were in a relationship until June 2000. ELLIS described SAUCIS as the jealous type and who was insecure. ELLIS stated SAUCIS knew about his previous relationship with WARREN and was fine with it. Despite his insecurities, ELLIS stated SAUCIS got on well with WARREN.¹⁹⁹

211. According to SAUCIS, he met WARREN through ELLIS at the end of 1988, and believed he would have seen WARREN approximately 5 to 10 times. On the weekend of his disappearance WARREN made plans with ELLIS to stay at his place in Redfern.²⁰⁰

212. ELLIS provided Police with vital information throughout the subsequent police investigations. He also took part in media documentaries into WARREN's disappearance. ELLIS provided statements to Police and participated in a video walk through at Mackenzie's Point, Bondi.²⁰¹ ²⁰² ELLIS had appeared on two (2) television shows - "Crime Investigation Australia: Blood Sport – The Bondi

¹⁹⁸ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/7/2017)

¹⁹⁹ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/7/2017)

²⁰⁰ ST – 5 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (25/9/2000)

²⁰¹ IN – 186 – Video Walkthrough Tamarama (02/8/2001)

²⁰² ST – 50 – Craig ELLIS Statement (02/08/2001)

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Gay Murders” aired on Foxtel the 26th March 2009²⁰³ and “Deepwater – The Real Story” aired on SBS on the 16th October 2016.²⁰⁴

213. Investigators identified a number of discrepancies in the version of events ELLIS provided over the years in relation to WARREN’s disappearance. As such a decision was made to focus on ELLIS and test the creditability of his evidence. It was decided to meet with ELLIS and obtain a further statement to clarify these discrepancies.
214. On the 19/07/2017, investigators met with ELLIS. A lengthy statement was obtained from him where he was able to explain the discrepancies. ELLIS has always provided a similar version of events relating to WARREN’s disappearance. The discrepancies identified, although minor needed to be addressed. ELLIS was able to clarify these areas with reasonable explanations. He was also able to indicate to investigators the location where he found WARREN’s keys. ELLIS was able to provide Police with significant detail that had not been known; this was that the men that used the coastal path as a beat would venture down the rock ledge to engage in sexual activity. This provides credibility to ELLIS’s version of how he found WARREN’s keys. For a person who is unfamiliar with the terrain and beat’s activity, it seemed highly unlikely to conduct a search of this area, but for ELLIS who knew this area well, he had reason to search there and find WARREN’s keys. This also satisfactorily supports the possibility of WARREN walking down to the rock shelf prior to his disappearance.²⁰⁵



Annexure from the statement of Craig ELLIS, dated 19/07/2017 – it depicts a map that has been marked by ELLIS showing where he located WARREN’s keys on the 24/07/1989

²⁰³ VI – 1 – Recording of “Bloodsport” (26/3/2009)

²⁰⁴ VI – 2 – Recording of “Deepwater” (16/10/2016)

²⁰⁵ ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/7/2017)

Derrick HUTCHINSON

215. On the 19/06/2017, a more detailed background into HUTCHINSON's relationship with WARREN was explored. HUTCHINSON was asked about the handwritten note, he did not recall it specifically, but acknowledged it was his handwriting and stated he must have given it to WARREN.²⁰⁶
216. HUTCHINSON first met WARREN around 1983 or 1984 at a gay beat at the top end of Southport Beach on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The pair had a sexual encounter at the beat then exchanged phone numbers, arranging to call each other after that. They would meet up every one or two weeks at Southport Beach to have sex. The pair maintained contact following these sexual encounters (WARREN moving to Wollongong and HUTCHINSON moving to Melbourne then Sydney). During 1989, HUTCHINSON and WARREN would meet when WARREN was in Sydney, at The Green Park Diner and after HUTCHINSON finished work they would go to The Midnight Shift for drinks. HUTCHINSON told police that he went to the Mackenzie's Point beat 5 or 6 times for the purposes of having sex with men anonymously. HUTCHINSON was unable to provide any further information into WARREN or what happened to him.²⁰⁷

Michael MATHISON

217. On the 27/06/2017, Michael MATHISON in a clarifying statement outlined that WARREN met MARSH at The Midnight Shift club on Oxford Street Sydney in 1988. It was also around the end of 1988 that MARSH and MATHISON moved in together at a unit at Victoria Street, Potts Point. The pair had another flatmate residing with them, Brad INNES. INNES also had his boyfriend Greg move into the same unit, so the four of them were living there altogether.²⁰⁸ It appeared Brad and Greg did not have an association with WARREN.
218. MATHISON met WARREN through MARSH and only recalled seeing WARREN 2 to 3 times. This was usually when WARREN would visit at their unit, where they would all have dinner/drinks together. Interestingly MATHISON stated that he didn't recall them going out together.²⁰⁹
219. MATHISON's opinion of WARREN, was that he seemed a little sad and that he that may have had feelings for MARSH which weren't reciprocated. According to MATHISON WARREN would look at MARSH with "puppy dog eyes". WARREN was expected to visit him and MARSH on the weekend he disappeared. MATHISON and his flatmates were at the unit and didn't recall them going out. After WARREN didn't arrive at the unit he recalled MARSH getting a call the next day from WARREN's friends asking where he was.²¹⁰

²⁰⁶ ST – 259 – Statement of Derrick HUTCHINSON (16/06/2017)

²⁰⁷ ST – 259 – Statement of Derrick HUTCHINSON (16/06/2017)

²⁰⁸ ST – 263 – Statement of Michael MATHISON (27/06/2017)

²⁰⁹ ST – 263 – Statement of Michael MATHISON (27/06/2017)

²¹⁰ ST – 263 – Statement of Michael MATHISON (27/06/2017)

Kingi 'Ken' MARSH

220. During the search of WARREN's vehicle his wallet was found. A few of WARREN's personal effects were also found inside the wallet; of interest was a passport size photograph of a male of Kingi Marsh. Depicted below. No other photographs were found in his wallet.^{211 212}



Photograph of Kingi MARSH found in WARREN's wallet

221. On the 26/07/1989, WARREN's unit was searched by Wollongong Detectives. During this search, they located 4 framed photographs on WARREN's chest of drawers in his bedroom.^{213 214} There didn't appear to be any other photographs located within the residence. It is not known why WARREN kept these photographs in his home. No attempts were made to identify these men in 1989 or in the subsequent investigations.



The four (4) framed photographs were located where this arrow indicates.

²¹¹ OD – 94 – Miscellaneous Property Receipt A150422 (24/7/1989)

²¹² OD – 95 – Run sheet dated 22/4/1991

²¹³ PH – 60 – Photo 9 – Photographs on dressing table

²¹⁴ PH – 57 – Photo 6 – General view of the bedroom

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222. On 31/01/2002, MARSH provided a background into his association with WARREN. During the review of this interview it was noted that at first it appeared MARSH believed he saw WARREN on the weekend he disappeared, but then claimed he had not seen WARREN on that weekend but the weekend before he disappeared. SF Neiwand investigators endeavoured to identify the 4 males depicted in the photographs found in WARREN's bedroom (see following image). WARREN's associates were shown the photographs to identify these men.



Photographs of four (4) framed photographs of men in WARREN's bedroom

223. On the 12/09/2017, MARSH stated that he met WARREN in 1988 (MARSH was unsure how the pair met) and they would meet with MARSH's group of friends at least once or twice a month and go to gay bars and clubs.²¹⁵ MARSH stated the group including WARREN would regularly use recreational drugs when out at dance parties. The drugs of choice for this group was either ecstasy or cocaine, in MARSH's case he enjoyed both. MARSH stated WARREN would use ecstasy more so than cocaine. MARSH also stated he was unsure of WARREN using amyl nitrate (as stated by Greg FERGUSON).

224. MARSH denied ever being involved in an intimate relationship with WARREN. Strike Force Neiwand investigators believe that despite this denial the pair may have shared an intimate episode at some point during their association, (based on WARREN disclosing to close associates that he was in a relationship with Ken and MATHISON's observations of the pair being extremely 'friendly.') MARSH wanted to maintain a morale standing of always being in a monogamous relationship with MATHISON. MARSH stated WARREN did pursue MARSH for a relationship.

"I heard through friends that Ross had told people we were in a relationship. I probably heard it through Brad (former roommate) or Michael or maybe some other friends on our outer circle. Most of my friends at some stage had expressed that perhaps something was going on with Ross and I. I'm not sure why Ross was telling people that we were in a relationship, I've always wondered that. I never knew Ross to be dishonest. It became obvious that Ross liked me, Ross would show affection towards me privately. If just me and Ross were just at our apartment alone Ross would show a lot of affection towards me. What I mean by this is that Ross would touch me when we were

²¹⁵ ST – 271 – Statement of Ken MARSH

alone, but this wasn't reciprocated by me. There may have been an occasion where Ross, me and Michael shared a bed together. There wasn't any sexual activity between us all though. Had I not been in a relationship with Michael its possible Ross and I may have gone together. "

"I spoke with Ross in the carpark of my building and confronted him about him telling other people that we were in a relationship together. Ross wanted to have a talk with me and I agreed to speak with him privately. Ross expressed his interest in me and wished I wasn't in a relationship with Michael, I explained to Ross that we could only be friends and nothing more than that. Ross was a bit upset when he left, he was tearful, I didn't want him to left upset, he was in tears. We sat in his car and I consoled him until he was in a better state to left. It was a Sunday afternoon and he was about to drive to Wollongong and I was concerned about him leaving and being upset. This could have been the last time I had seen him or around the month of his disappearance. "

"It did occur to me at the time after he disappeared I felt like was that him feeling rejected and did he do something. "

225. WARREN was obsessed with MARSH, which is established by Christine JONES, Michael MATHISON and MARSH himself. He told other people he was in a relationship with him, the photograph of him in his wallet and beside his bed.²¹⁶ It is suggested that MARSH's rejection of WARREN may have weighed heavily on WARREN.

226. MARSH reiterated that he did not see WARREN on the weekend of this disappearance. MARSH was also at a loss to explain why he had previously said he had. (ER – 20) – Transcript MARSH had stated this on 2 occasions, in his interview with Police on the 27/03/2002²¹⁷ and - "Crime Investigation Australia: Blood Sport – The Bondi Gay Murders" which aired on Foxtel 26/03/2009 of Kingi MARSH).²¹⁸

Re-analysis of Exhibits and DNA and Fingerprint comparisons

Exhibits

227. On 13/05/2016, investigators liaised with the Forensic Analytical Science Services (FASS) in relation to exhibits from the WARREN investigation. Inquiries into the whereabouts of these exhibits identified that they had been booked up with other exhibits under Operation Taradale in the long-term Exhibit book on 02/08/2011 as D685416. These exhibits were stored at the Metropolitan Exhibits & Property Centre (MEPC), Potts Hill.

228. On 20/12/2016, Strike Force Neiwand investigators took the following exhibits to FASS, for DNA analysis²¹⁹:

²¹⁶ ST – 271 – Statement of Ken MARSH

²¹⁷ ER – 20 – ERISP transcript: Kingi MARSH: 27/03/2002

²¹⁸ VI – 1 – Recording of "Bloodsport" (26/3/2009)

²¹⁹ IN – 172 – DNA re-testing unsuccessful on exhibits

- I. X0000639120 - 1 x Radio Rentals payment slip 07/07/89. Item 8-1
- II. X0000639121 - 1 x Radio Rentals payment slip 26/05/89. Item 8-2
- III. X0000639122 - Piece of paper with name of "Derrick" Item 8-3
- IV. X0000639123 - 1 x ANZ transaction slip 21/07/89 Item 8-4
- V. X0000639124 - 1 x NSW Drivers Licence Ross WARREN Item 8-5
- VI. X0000639125 - 1 x ANZ Visa Card Ross WARREN Item 8-6
- VII. X0000639126 - 1 x Lets Go Video Card number 35409 Item 8-7
- VIII. X0000639127 - 1 x Wollongong Library Card Name Ross Warren Item 8-9
- IX. X0000639128 - 1 x Plastic Card with MADD written on it. Item 8-8

229. DNA testing was unsuccessful on all items except one. A mixed DNA profile, weak/complex result was found on WARREN's NSW Drivers Licence (X0000639124). This profile remains unidentified.

DNA comparison

230. On the 30/06/2011, a DNA sample, (Barcode - X0000547418) was obtained from [I146] [I146], [REDACTED].²²⁰

231. On the 28/11/2016, Forensic Services Group – Forensic Intelligence and Results Management Unit, Identification Services branch were requested to conduct mitochondrial DNA testing of CORKHILL's sample against all unidentified remains on the "unknown deceased index".²²¹ On 27/09/2017 investigators were advised that there was not match.

Fingerprint examination

232. The NSWPF Fingerprint Section conducted further examination of the unidentified fingerprint located on the cassette case from WARREN's vehicle. There was no match on the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) for any of the unidentified prints.

233. The fingerprints section was also requested to run through the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) the fingerprints of Derrick HUTCHINSON²²² and [I188].²²³ This also resulted with no matches.

²²⁰ OD – 13 – Buccal swab of [I146], [REDACTED]

²²¹ OD – 85 – WARREN's mother DNA sample to be tested against remains

²²² IN – 146 – Derrick HUTCHINSON fingerprints not identified in car

²²³ IN – 54 – Outstanding prints not identified

Elimination of Persons of interests

234. Through the reinvestigation the following individuals were categorically eliminated as suspects.

I88 a.k.a I88 Alias 1

235. Information linking **I88** to WARREN originated from **I88** and is considered dubious. **I88**'s knowledge of WARREN's disappearance was based on media reports and rumours circulating within the Wollongong gay community.

236. On the 03/08/2017, investigators attempted to locate **I88**. Police met with **I88**'s parents, **I147** and **I148**. Police were provided with considerable insight into **I88** by his parents, this background wasn't previously known. **I88** suffered sexual abuse at 13 years of age, as a result of this abuse he suffers from severe anxiety and has also become extremely paranoid; believing the people that harmed him would harm his family. Because of this **I88** continually changed his name. **I147** further stated **I88** had moved back home recently and spent his days walking around Wollongong 'aimlessly'. **I88**'s parents stated that **I88** was a known liar who fabricated stories. She further stated **I88** would imagine people were alive but who are actually dead.

237. On the 15/08/2017, investigators met with **I88** and interviewed him in relation to WARREN's disappearance. **I88** stated that he suffered from a range of mental illnesses (schizophrenia, personality disorder and bio-polar). Investigators found **I88**'s version of events surrounding his knowledge of WARREN and his disappearance was quite distorted and disjointed. **I88** informed investigators that he had only seen WARREN twice at two parties within the gay community but did not know him or speak to him. **I88** is considered unreliable and was not involved in WARREN's disappearance, **I88**'s mental illness leads to a delusional belief that things have occurred when in fact they haven't and can be eliminated from the investigation²²⁴

NP57

238. It was clear that the information linking **NP57** to WARREN's disappearance came from comments that she had made. **NP57**'s comments included a reference 'Throwing' or 'Bashing' and 'gay news reader'. The comments made by **NP57** were directed at her brother, **I143**'s ex-girlfriend, **I143**. **NP57** enjoyed **I143**'s and other people's reactions to these comments. Over the years **NP57** would continue to refer to her supposed involvement in WARREN's disappearance to, **Miss M**²²⁵ in the 1990's and to her husband **I149**²²⁶ in the 2000's.

239. Operation Taradale investigators interviewed **NP57** as well as targeting her covertly and no evidentiary material was obtained. Strike Force Neiwand investigators are of the view that at the

²²⁴ IN - 237 - **I88 Alias 1** @ **I88** interviewed on 16/08/2017

²²⁵ ST - 28 - Statement of **Miss M**

²²⁶ ST - 228 - Statement of **I149**

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time [NP57] made these comments she was under the influence of drugs, alcohol and in an abusive relationship.²²⁷

240. The information about WARREN was in the media in 1989, 1991 and 2001, corresponding to the her 'admissions'. [NP57] was known to exaggerate and to be an untruthful person. There is no intelligence to link [NP57] to Marks Park or the coastal walk. [NP57] denied involvement in WARREN's death. Operation TARADALE exhausted all possible avenues of obtaining admissions from [NP57]

Greg FERGUSON

241. FERGUSON was eliminated as a person of interest in 1996²²⁸ and during Operation Taradale in 2001. On the 18/11/2016 inquiries through the Department of Immigration to confirm that FERGUSON was out of the country on 21st and or 22nd July 1989.²²⁹

Darran CHADWICK

242. [198] [WARREN associate] identified the male to the far left (1st framed photograph) as WARREN's ex-boyfriend, Darran CHADWICK.

243. In 1989 Darran CHADWICK was a 24-year-old gay male. CHADWICK was a NSW Police officer between 1983 and 1988, before leaving to become a flight attendant with Qantas. CHADWICK was previously in an intimate relationship with [1145] and Ross WARREN. It was during CHADWICK's relationship with WARREN that he introduced him to [198].²³⁰

244. CHADWICK met WARREN through a men's chat line and from there they commenced a relationship. This would have been around 1988. He and WARREN shared an intimate relationship for about 3 to 4 months. CHADWICK believes he ended the relationship sometime between 2 to 6 months prior to WARREN disappearing. CHADWICK stated when they were together, WARREN would generally come to CHADWICK's unit at Bronte Road, Clovelly and stay the weekend. If they went out it would be to Coogee Beach and on one occasion Centennial Park in Randwick. CHADWICK stated he could not recall any of WARREN's friends from the time they were in a relationship. CHADWICK was shown a photograph depicting four (4) framed photographs of males, located in WARREN's bedroom.²³¹ He could not identify anyone apart from himself.

NOTE: Investigators are aware CHADWICK at least knew [198] and Greg FERGUSON at the time he was in a relationship with WARREN. It is also believed that CHADWICK may have been the person to introduce WARREN into the circle of friends made up of flight attendants.

245. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] From the statements obtained from CHADWICK and [198] and the background checks conducted on

²²⁷ ER – 11 – ERISP of [NP57] (19/12/2001)

²²⁸ IN – 161 – Enquiries with DAVENPORT – Qantas: G. FERGUSON

²²⁹ EX – 12 – Immigration records Greg FERGUSON 1982 – 1990

²³⁰ ST – 261 – Statement of Darran CHADWICK [26/06/2017]

²³¹ PH – 60 – Photo 9 – Photographs on dressing table

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CHADWICK there was no evidence to suggest he would be responsible or involved in the disappearance of WARREN. CHADWICK held no animosity towards WARREN and did not have a motive to harm him. Therefore, he was not considered a person of interest.

Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park - 'The beat'

246. During SF Neiwand's interactions with [198] it became evident that he could provide significant information into the happenings around the gay beat at Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park.
247. [198] outlined his association with WARREN and his relationship with other members of their social group. [198] was a regular visitor to Mackenzie's Point between the years of 1988 to 1990. [198] stated he frequented Mackenzie's Point 3 to 4 times per week for the purposes of engaging in anonymous sex with men; he described this activity as somewhat of an 'addiction'. [198] explained to investigators how 'the beat' would work and the encounters he had with the unknown men. [198] stated during his 2 years of attending this area, he did not experience or hear about crimes committed against gay men. Although he did know of assaults being carried out against gay men during this period of time he did not experience such acts himself.²³²
248. On 05/05/2017, police conducted a walkthrough with [198] at Marks Park/Mackenzie's Point. [198] explained he went to the beat at night time, because that's when it was most active. [198] went to the beat in the warmer months and wouldn't go if it was raining or cold. [198] pointed out to investigators certain crevices and blind spots at the beat and explained how there was little conversation and generally eye contact was made to gauge interest before the pair went to a concealed area.²³³



The area marked in red is, according to [198] the beat area during the time he attend in 1988-1990.

Aerial view of Modern day Mackenzie's Point (Google maps)

²³² ST – 247 – Statement of [198] – friend of Ross WARREN [02/05/2017]

²³³ REC – 8 – Walkthrough [198] 05/05/2017 at Marks Park

Dr Robert BRANDER

249. Dr BRANDER's field of expertise is coastal geomorphology. Dr BRANDER offered an expert opinion on the submarine terrain of Mackenzie's Point, the water activity around this area and a possible outcome as to where WARREN's body could be if he had fallen into the ocean.²³⁴

250. Dr BRANDER opinion was that a body immersed in water off the rock shelf (or on the bed) would not move landward.²³⁵

251. On the 15/02/2017, Doctor BRANDER addressed the following issues²³⁶

*"The rock shelves near sea level in the vicinity of the headland extending from Bondi around to McKenzie's Bay/Tamarama beach to the south are both narrow and discontinuous and do not offer many flat areas. As such they are not easily walkable as they are consistently exposed to wave action, particularly at high tide. Walking over these rock platforms would be hazardous due to slippery surfaces, wave exposure and would involve scrambling over boulders and uneven surfaces. The exception is the rock shelf between McKenzie's and Tamarama Beach which is wide, flat and easily accessible."*²³⁷

*"However, the region between McKenzie's and the Marks Park Headland are characterized by some raised sandstone platforms. These are easily accessible to people from the main public walkway who can scramble down and continue walking along these narrow platforms (at some elevation) towards the north and end of the headland. It's not necessarily easy, and the width of the walking area can vary from 1-2 m's, but it can be done. There are overhangs and caves that (from my experience living in the area) are often used for fires and sometimes homeless people. These platforms would not be exposed to wave activity unless during extreme storm events (6 m + wave heights)."*²³⁸

*"I have been shown on Feb 15 2017 a video of a police walkthrough of the area with a witness who claims to have found a set of keys in the vicinity of the rock ledges under the Marks Park public pathway."²³⁹ Without commenting on the plausibility of the key discovery, it would be possible to access and walk in that area, particularly at low tide."*²⁴⁰

NOTE: This includes the area near where the keys to WARREN'S vehicle were found by Craig ELLIS on the 24th July 1989.

²³⁴ ST – 43 – Expert Statement of Dr Robert BRANDER (01/08/2001)

²³⁵ ST – 27 – Expert Statement of Dr Robert BRANDER (11/04/2002)

²³⁶ ST – 230 – Expert Statement Dr Robert BRANDER (31/01/2017)

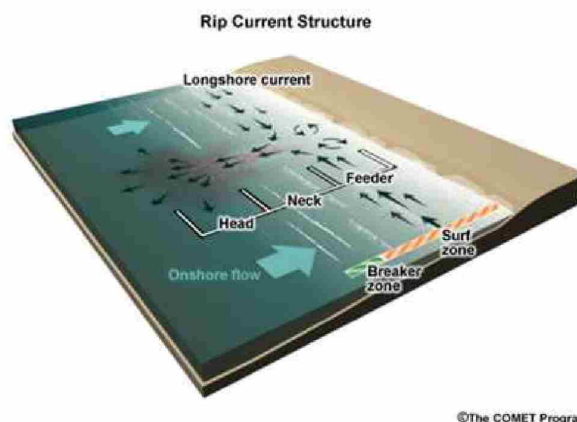
²³⁷ ST – 230 – Expert Statement Dr Robert BRANDER (31/01/2017)

²³⁸ ST – 230 – Expert Statement Dr Robert BRANDER (31/01/2017)

²³⁹ REC – 2 – Craig ELLIS and David MCMAHON walkthrough

²⁴⁰ ST – 230 – Expert Statement Dr Robert BRANDER (31/01/2017)

252. Dr BRANDER schematic of the rip current structure, illustrating how the water would flow from the ocean to the shore line.



©The COMET Program

Figure 1. Idealised schematic diagram of nearshore cell circulation including onshore flow due to breaking waves, alongshore flow in the form of feeder currents, and offshore flow in the form of rip currents (source: The Comet Program).

253. Dr BRANDER was asked to address the possibility of a body becoming lodged on or beneath the rock shelf, and stated -

“Sand levels immediately seaward of rock shelves constantly adjust to changing wave conditions. During large storms, sand is dominantly removed offshore and the sand level is lowered. During these conditions various irregular topography including subaqueous caves and notches can be exposed. During these times it would be possible for a submerged body to become lodged between exposed rocks and notches beneath the water surface.”

“It is also possible that wave action and associated processes of reflection and turbulence can lift a submerged body onto the surface of the rock shelf, particularly during a rising tide and energetic wave conditions. As the tide rises, water levels over the rock shelf become deeper and wave action increasingly extends landward across the platform. A body could be swept along the surface of the rock platform and become wedged or lodged in any cracks or crevasses or between boulders.”

“During extended periods of smaller waves, sand on the seabed tends to be transported landwards and the sand level rises, which can cover and fill in uneven rock topography below sea level. In the case of McKenzie’s Bay, this can sometimes result in the formation of an ephemeral beach as the small embayment acts as a trap for sand (see Figure 2). However, it is difficult to determine historical time periods of the presence and absence of McKenzie’s beach due to lack of documentation. Of note, the rock shelf from the southern side of the Marks Park headland around to the northern side is never completely covered in sand due to constant exposure to wave action and turbulence.”



Figure 2. McKenzie's Beach with sand (December 1997) and without sand (April 1998). Photos R. Brander

254. Dr BRANDER also stated that the rock shelf from the southern side of Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park headland is never completely covered in sand due to constant wave action and turbulence.²⁴¹

255. Based on Dr BRANDER's opinion, it can be asserted that if WARREN had slipped, fallen or was thrown off cliff's edge around Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park and his body has ended up in the ocean the likelihood of his remains being washed ashore is remote. Furthermore, based on the research of Dr BRANDER confirmed that the area where WARREN's keys were found is commonly accessible on foot. Dr BRANDER's opinion based evidence was not sought to identify a search area for WARREN's remains. The intention was to give investigators a greater understanding of the area. This would allow considerations to be made to other hypothesis, taking into consideration how the ocean movements and rock shelf around Mackenzie's Point would impact on a body in that area.

Summary

256. The 1989 investigation was hampered by several factors. Homosexuality was decriminalized in 1984 and in 1989 there was a real and/or perceived prejudice against them from the wider community and police. This resulted in gay men being reluctant to acknowledge their sexuality to investigating Police, despite it being the reason for them having a crime committed against them. If a male was attacked at Mackenzie's Point at night there was a risk that they would not report the crime for fear of being identified as homosexual. To support this premise David McMAHON told police he was 'at Marks Park for the purposes of going for a leisure run around the walk path, despite it being 10.00pm of an evening and the location having poor lighting.'

257. The original investigation undertaken by Former Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH was inadequate. Statements were not obtained from key witnesses (including SAUCIS and ELLIS) which may have provided vital clues as to WARREN's last movements. The whereabouts of the brief of evidence that BOWDITCH stated he prepared could not be established at the 2003 Inquest. Records relating to his use of the Airwing and Police divers in a search for WARREN could not be found.

²⁴¹ ST – 230 – Expert Statement Dr Robert BRANDER (31/01/2017)

258. In 2001 Operation Taradale focused on one line of inquiry - youth gangs and gay hate related crime. Former Detective Sergeant Stephen PAGE viewed McMAHON as a 'survivor' of a youth gang attack at the Mackenzie's Point beat and attempted to offer a similar event as the most likely scenario for the disappearance of WARREN. Although a valid line of inquiry it limited the focus of investigators to youth gangs without considering the crucial aspect of victimology. A thorough review of all aspects of WARREN's life was not conducted. Some of WARREN's associates and former partners were not identified and interviewed. WARREN's last known movements were not thoroughly explored.
259. Covert investigative techniques were conducted by Operation Taradale without a strategy and on occasion included [REDACTED] Media releases and contact with the targets failed to generate admissions. The investigation failed to establish a link between the youth gangs and the disappearance of WARREN or gather sufficient evidence to prosecute them. The investigators also disclosed police methodology regarding covert methods to the POI and at Inquest.
260. The evidence submitted at Inquest before Senior Deputy State Coroner MILLEDGE focussed exclusively on a link between youth gangs, gay hate crimes and the disappearance of WARREN. It appears that any other hypotheses (i.e. – misadventure, suicide or domestic related homicide) were discounted without being thoroughly explored. Despite this Her Honour found as follows; *"That Ross Bradley WARREN died in Sydney on or about 22 July 1989. Whilst the cause and manner of death are unknown, I am satisfied that the deceased was a victim of homicide perpetrated by person or persons unknown.*
261. Strike Force Neiwand considered the possibility that WARREN's death may have been one of several possible scenarios, including misadventure, suicide or homicide. Police were unable to rule out the possibility of the death being linked to anyone of those scenarios.
262. The prospect of misadventure was raised in the initial investigation undertaken by Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH. WARREN's vehicle was in a street close to the beat, he was known to go to the site occasionally for sex and may have accidentally slipped from the cliff into the water below.
263. Although suicide seems an unlikely scenario in WARREN's case there is evidence from his mother that he was unsuccessful in his application for a position at Sydney Television Station. SF Neiwand identified WARREN's potential exposure to HIV [REDACTED] and two failed attempts to establish a relationship with men he was infatuated with, CHADWICK ST – 261 – Statement of Darran CHADWICK and MARSH ST – 271 – Statement of Ken MARSH. WARREN was distraught following a rejection from Kingi MARSH. These factors that may have led to him taking his own life, this is despite his family and friends saying he wasn't suicidal or depressed.
264. Homicide was thoroughly explored in relation to youth gangs by Operation Taradale and they were unable to link an individual or group to WARREN's disappearance. SF Neiwand explored the possibility of an associate or person known to WARREN being involved in his disappearance. Due to the passage of time establishing movement patterns for associates at the time of WARREN's disappearance was difficult and in many cases impossible. WARREN's death could also be linked to a male that he met at the beat for sex – again there was no evidence to support this theory. Police are unable to establish the manner and cause of WARREN's death.

265. Doctor Dr BRANDER's (an expert in coastal geomorphology) *believed that if WARREN had slipped, fallen or had been thrown off the cliff's edge around Mackenzie's Point/Marks Park and landed in the ocean it was unlikely that his remains would be washed ashore.*
266. An interesting detail from several witnesses who frequented the Mackenzie's Point gay beat was that they did not witness or encounter violence of any sort. They were aware that 'gay bashing's' happened at beats but were not aware that they happened at the Mackenzie's Point gay beat. ST – 267 – Statement of Craig ELLIS (19/07/2017), ST – 247 – Statement of [198] [198] Based on this information police confirmed that attacks on gay men did occur, but may not have been as prevalent as portrayed by the Operation Taradale investigation or the media.

Key Findings

267. The significant inadequacies of the original 1989 investigation undertaken by former Detective Sergeant BOWDITCH are outlined in the 2005 findings by the Coroner. The Coroner commended Operation Taradale as *'thorough and impeccable'*. The *'Gay Hate'* line of inquiry prioritised by TARADALE was valid and the Coroner was of the view that *"everything that could be done was done"*. Operation Taradale investigators thoroughly investigated the persons of interest linked to *'gay hate'* gangs using traditional and covert investigative measures. Despite these exhaustive measures Operation Taradale was unable to link persons of interest to WARREN's disappearance and suspected death.
268. On the 09/03/2005 Magistrate Jacqueline Milledge [Senior Deputy State Coroner] delivered her findings following an Inquest into the disappearance of WARREN, which was premised on the *'gay hate'* line of inquiry. TARADALE focused on *'gay hate'* and relied on investigation confirmation bias which was a major factor that ultimately limited the validity of the Coroner's findings. Confirmation bias *'is the tendency to bolster a hypothesis by seeking consistent evidence while disregarding inconsistent evidence. In criminal investigations, preference for hypothesis-consistent information could contribute to false convictions by leading investigators to disregard evidence that challenges their theory of a case.'*
269. Through the SF Neiwand investigation there was limited scope for identifying potential POI's that may be linked to WARREN's disappearance and suspected death. Investigators focussed on victimology, identifying associates, former partners, family and work colleagues. Many of these individuals had previously not been spoken to by police. It was established that WARREN had:
- ∞ Potential exposure to HIV [REDACTED]
 - ∞ Two failed same sex relationship attempts where he was infatuated and the feelings weren't reciprocated - [CHADWICK and MARSH].
 - ∞ Failure to gain employment with a major television network.
270. SF Neiwand investigators concluded that WARREN's death could be one of several possibilities including; misadventure, suicide or homicide [individual, gang or domestic related]. Unfortunately, a lack of physical evidence, credible suspects and witnesses accounts prevent this investigation from progressing. There are no further lines of inquiry for the WARREN matter. There is no forensic evidence, no identified suspect and/or witnesses. WARREN's disappearance – cause and manner of death remain *'undetermined'* despite the 2005 *'homicide'* findings of the Coroner,

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which list it as homicide. It is recommended that this investigation be listed as inactive and only reactivated if new and compelling evidence becomes available.

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