



ABN 43 408 613 180

Magistrate Michael Barnes
 NSW State Coroner
 State Coroners Court
 44-46 Parramatta Road,
 Glebe NSW 2037

NSW POLICE FORCE

STATE CRIME COMMAND

HOMICIDE SQUAD

This and the following1..... pages is the
 Annexure marked with the letter *MSW 3*
 referred to in the affidavit of
Michael John Gilling
 sworn/affirmed at *Queenbey* this
*20th*..... day of *January* 20*13*

Police Headquarters
 Level 8 Tower B
 1 Charles Street,
 Parramatta
 NSW 2150
 Tel: 02 8835 8777

Before me:

(Solicitor/Justice of the Peace)

Dear Sir,

Re: The death of Scott Russell Johnson in 1988

I refer to our recent conversations concerning the death of Scott Russell Johnson, a citizen of the United States of America that occurred between 8 and 10 December 1988 at North Head, Manly, and recent investigations conducted by the NSW Police Force Homicide Squad.

By way of brief background, on 16 March 1989, following an investigation conducted by Manly Police, an inquest into the death of Scott Johnson was held before Deputy State Coroner Derrick Hand. It is recorded that Coroner Hand was of the view that the matter had been fully and properly investigated and found that, *"The deceased, between the 8th and 10th day of December 1988, at North Head, Manly, north of Blue Fish Point in the State of New South Wales died of the effects of multiple injuries sustained then and there when he jumped from the top to the rocks below with the intention of taking his own life"*.

The primary Johnson family members and associates include Steve Johnson (Scott's brother), Rebecca Johnson (Scott's half sister) and their employee Dan Glick (an author and journalist), who have over a number of years since the 1989 inquest espoused a belief that Scott Johnson was the victim of a 'gay-hate' related homicide. As a result, the Johnson family commenced private inquiries and a strong campaign highlighting their views on the matter.

On 27 June 2012, and following representations made by the family of Scott Johnson (the Johnson family) a second inquest was held before her honour Deputy State Coroner Carmel Forbes. Coroner Forbes concluded that, *"I find that Scott Russell Johnson died between the 8th and 10th of December 1988 at North Head Manly, north of Blue Fish Point, from the effects of multiple injuries he sustained as a result of falling from a cliff. The evidence does not allow me to make a finding as to how he fell"*.

Deputy State Coroner Forbes also recommended the following to the Commissioner for Police, *"the death of Scott Russell Johnson be referred to 'Cold Cases' for further investigation in accordance with police procedures and protocols."*

Following a meeting held on 12 February 2013 between the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, members of the Johnson family, and members of the Homicide Squad (Detective Acting Superintendent Chris Olen and Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young) the Homicide Squad Unsolved Homicide Team established Strike Force *Macnamir* with the stated terms of reference being;

"To reinvestigate the circumstances of the death of Scott Johnson (27 years old) whose body was found at North Head, Manly, on 10 December 1988, with particular reference to information provided by the family of Scott Johnson on 9 January 2013."

Since that time Strike Force *Macnamir* investigators have conducted comprehensive investigations into the death of Scott Johnson, including inquiries conducted in the context of alleged 'gay-related' assaults on Sydney's northern beaches during the 1980's and early 1990's.

While, at this time investigators are finalising a remaining line of inquiry, they have also extensively investigated information provided by the family of Scott Johnson to support their theory that Scott Johnson was the victim of a 'gay-hate' related homicide, to date there has been no evidence uncovered that directly relates to the how Mr Johnson died.

A review of Strike Force *Macnamir* investigations to, with the exception of the remaining line of inquiry, has also been conducted by the NSW Crime Commission.

I am of the view that given particular circumstances surrounding this case coupled with the interests and beliefs of the Johnson family, that a further examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of Scott Johnson in light of the comprehensive investigations conducted by the Homicide Squad Unsolved Homicide Team via Strike Force *Macnamir* would be in the public interest.

Accordingly, and as per our recent discussions about the matter, I write to formally request that your office conduct a further examination of the circumstances surrounding the death of Scott Johnson following the finalisation of current investigations.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further with me I can be contacted at any time on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Michael Willing
Detective Superintendent
Commander
Homicide Squad
NSW Police Force
19 March 2014

[REDACTED] S.P.
J. McKeown
Justice of the Peace
30 January 2023
No. 148342
at Queanbeyan