

From: Michael_Willing [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
To: John_A_Thompson/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice; John_A_Thompson/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice
Cc: Anthony_Crandell/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice; Blake_Clifton; Brad_Scanlan/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice;
 Gemini_Bakos/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice;
 Jacqueline_Braw/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice; [REDACTED]; John_Lehmann/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice;
 Christopher_Olen/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice; John_Kerlatec/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice; Penelope_Brown/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice; Jason_Dickinson;
 Anthony_Crandell/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice; Blake_Clifton; Brad_Scanlan/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice;
 Gemini_Bakos/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice; Jacqueline_Braw/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice%NSWPolice;
 John_Lehmann/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice; Christopher_Olen/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice; John_Kerlatec/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice;
 Penelope_Brown/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
Subject: Re: Fw: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 8 December 2015 15:16:00

JT,

Goes without saying that I would be extremely cautious about this. (In fact in my humble view we should not be going anywhere near this).

The Johnson matter is before the State Coroner and will be heard at inquest next year. As you know it touches on some of these allegations and we are in the midst of battle with lawyers etc in relation to matters associated with it.

In addition to that my Unsolved Homicide Team have also commenced a fresh look at the *SF Taradale* matters (including John Russell, Ross Warren etc etc) under Det Sgt Penny Brown on the back of information received through the Johnson case. That will be a longer term job but nonetheless it is active.

Regards

Mick Willing



Michael Willing
Detective Superintendent - Commander, Homicide Squad
 State Crime Command I New South Wales Police Force

From: John A Thompson [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Blake Clifton, Brad Scanlan, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Anthony Crandell, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Gemini Bakos, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jacqueline Braw, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 08/12/2015 14:19
Subject: Fw: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]

All,

I have left a message with Ben Law to advise him that he will need to come through the Film and TV Unit for any requests for NSW Police involvement in this project.

Regards,

JT



John A Thompson

Manager
 Corporate Communications Unit
 Public Affairs Branch



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----- Forwarded by John A Thompson [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice on 08/12/2015 14:17 -----

From: Blake Clifton, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
To: John A Thompson, [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 08/12/2015 13:06
Subject: Fw: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]

Hey JT, have your guys been approached by below production company? Police prosecutor has been asked to participate and looking for our advice.



Blake Clifton
Acting Manager
Police Media Unit
Public Affairs Branch

[Redacted]
Level 14, 201 Elizabeth St NSW 2000

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----- Forwarded by Blake Clifton/2000934/Staff/NSWPolice on 08/12/2015 13:04 -----

From: Blake Clifton [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice
To: Brad Scanlan [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Anthony Crandell [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Gemini Bakos [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jacqueline Braw [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 08/12/2015 13:04
Subject: Re: Fw: Re: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Brad, thanks for your email. I would urge a little caution at this stage. Let me seek some advice from our Film and TV section with regards to whether they have been approached by this production company so that we can present a coordinated response. We will get back you. Cheers



Blake Clifton
Acting Manager
Police Media Unit
Public Affairs Branch

[Redacted]
Level 14, 201 Elizabeth St NSW 2000

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From: Brad Scanlan [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice
To: Blake Clifton [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Anthony Crandell [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jacqueline Braw [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Gemini Bakos [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 08/12/2015 11:45
Subject: Fw: Re: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]

Mr Clifton,
cc: Sir, Ma'am, Jackie
I'm wondering if you could give me some advice on this one.
Supt Crandell recommended you as a good source of advice media-wise.
As indicated, there is not a lot I remember from all of this. I was a probationer at the time, but I did keep a scrap-book.
I'm happy to talk to them in regard to general memories, but I can't really get into great detail.
What do you think?
Brad

Brad Scanlan,
Sergeant,
[Redacted]
Head of Court,
Western Courts,
Police Prosecutions Command
co/ Broken Hill Police Station
252 Argent Street
Broken Hill NSW 2880.
[Redacted]

"Not your average police prosecutor"
Barrier Daily Truth, 2/8/13

-----Forwarded by Brad Scanlan [Redacted] Staff/NSWPolice on 08/12/2015 11:43 -----
To: Brad Scanlan [Redacted]

From: Benjamin Law [REDACTED]
Date: 30/11/2015 16:26
Cc: Anthony Crandell [REDACTED]; Jacqueline Braw <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders [DLM=Sensitive]

Hello Brad,

Thank you for such a speedy reply and for flagging your very valid concerns.

However, having read your email, we feel even more strongly that your insights would be invaluable to our project, for two reasons:

(1) We're looking for someone to illustrate the scene of John Russell's death and to convey an eyewitness account of what had happened. Even as a junior officer, your account of the scene is enormously important.

(2) We're also looking for insights into how the NSW Police evolved from being an organisation very few Sydney gays and lesbians trusted, to becoming an inclusive organisation – of which the gay and lesbian liaison officer program was pivotal.

Your perspective as an officer who started as a junior in the time of John Russell's death, to your position now, is an utterly unique and fascinating one.

To clarify: as much as our documentary is about anti-gay violence, we also see it as a story about NSW Police and the evolution in its relationship with Sydney's LGBTI community.

If it helps, I also want to clarify here that Blackfella and SBS are not about making sensational, tabloid programming.

The team working on this documentary have – between them – won and been nominated for AACTA and Logie Awards, and our director Amanda Blue, who is based in London, has been nominated for BAFTA Awards. (Her last feature documentary was the award-winning *After The Wave*, which examined the aftermath of the Boxing Day Tsunami.)

Amanda will be in Australia throughout January.

Are you free for a chat on the phone about the possibility of us meeting you in Broken Hill for a chat and a cuppa?

Thanks again, Brad.

—Ben



blackfella films

BENJAMIN LAW
RESEARCHER

BLACKFELLAFILMS.COM.AU

On 27 Nov 2015, at 3:56 pm, Brad Scanlan <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Ben,
cc: Sir and Jackie

Thank you for contacting me in relation to this project.

It certainly sounds like an important program which should receive a great deal of attention.

I imagine it will be scrutinised and studied for a long time afterward and I look forward to seeing it.

I can't offer you very much, though, in regards to any input. I was very junior at the time, and now, after over 25 years, my memory of those times and places is little more than fleeting images.

I played little part in any of the investigations apart from being there and carrying things. Later on I working on crime prevention strategies at the location, such as regular patrols of the area and went on to become a Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO).

I'm afraid that's not much to work with.

There was a similar project (Killing Off the Beat) who contacted me and I declined to participate with them for the same reasons.

Because I am now performing prosecuting duties in the outback of NSW, I will have to decline your kind offer.

All the best with the project.

Brad

Brad Scanlan

Police Prosecutions Command
Western Courts
C/o Broken Hill Police Station
252 Argent St
Broken Hill 2880

<Mail Attachment.jpeg>

From: Benjamin Law <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 24/11/2015 16:30
Subject: Major SBS TV Documentary on Gay Hate Murders

Dear Brad,

My name's Benjamin, and I'm a Sydney-based researcher with Blackfella Films – the award-winning production company behind shows like *Redfern Now*, *Mabo* and *First Contact*.

You can read more about Blackfella's work here:

<http://blackfellafilms.com.au/>

I believe your ex-colleague Adrian Ingleby gave you the heads up that I might be in touch.

We're currently making a film-length documentary for SBS, investigating what happened to dozens of gay men in Sydney who were brutally assaulted, went missing or were murdered between the 1970s and 1990s.

It's called *Deep Water*, and will be a major TV event screening in 2016.

Given you were a police officer at the scene of John Russell's death – and also given your later experience as a gay liaison in the NSW Police – I'd love to chat to you over the phone. Your help and insights would be enormously appreciated.

If there's a particular time and phone number that's good to call, please let me know.

All my contacts are below, and I've attached a confidential brief about our documentary too.

Please get in touch any time if you have any questions too.

Yours truly,

—Ben[attachment "BFF_ Logo.jpg" deleted by Brad Scanlan/[REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice]

BENJAMIN LAW
RESEARCHER

[BLACKFELLAFILMS.COM.AU\[attachment "Deep Water One Pager.pdf" deleted by Brad Scanlan/26257/Staff/NSWPolice\]](#)

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