

Statement of Craig ELLIS

File Number: 5

Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Statement

Completed Date: 25 Sep 2000

Brief Description: Attached to this product is a statement by Craig ELLIS, former friend and homosexual partner of Ross WARREN. WARREN met with ELLIS and SAUCIS at ■■■ Albert Street at Redfern and later left to have drinks with a friend. ELLIS and SAUCIS were invited. Discussions were had about linking up the following day to see a movie. WARREN was to stay at that address for the weekend, but failed to return after going out. ELLIS later found WARREN's vehicle with property inside intact, and keys on a nearby rockshelf (which appeared to be placed, not thrown).

New South Wales Police

P.190

v3.0

STATEMENT in the matter of:
Suspect death of Ross WARREN

Place: Paddington
Police Station

Date : 25 September 2000

Name: Craig Howard ELLIS
Address: [REDACTED] Mary St, Surry Hills.
Occupation: Accountant

Tel. No.: [REDACTED]

STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness.

The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable for prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 33 years of age.

3. About April, 1988, I was at Marks Park, Tamarama, I recall it was a weekend at Easter, at night, I met Ross WARREN. Marks Park is a meeting place for gay men, and both Ross and I were gay. We had an intimate relationship for about two months, and after that we maintained a friendship.

4. Between April, 1988, and July, 1989, we were close friends, and we spoke on about a weekly basis, and we caught up together about every fortnight.

5. In July 1989, I was living at [REDACTED] Albert Street, Redfern, with Amanda EVANS. I do not recall the telephone number at those premises at this stage.

Witness: _____

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Signature: _____

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6. When I first met Ross he was living in a house at Wollongong, and sharing it with two other people, and in July 1989 he was living in a unit in Wollongong by himself. I do not recall exactly when he moved in to those premises.

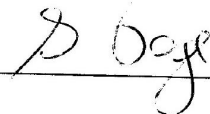
7. I would describe as kind, well-spoken, considerate, warm, fairly conservative and fairly reserved. He was a good person, the kind that would never hurt another. In the time I knew Ross, I did not see him display mood swings, and I did not notice him to be depressed, although he was not totally happy with living in the Wollongong area.

8. The time I knew Ross, he was a presenter on Win4 in Wollongong. He had been working there for several months prior to us meeting. Ross told me that he was trying to get a job as a news presenter in Sydney.

9. On Friday the 21st of July, 1989, Ross arrived at my house at ■ Albert Street, Redfern, in a small brown Nissan Pulsar he was driving. He would have arrived about seven or eight P.M, and also present was Paul SAUCIS, and possibly Amanda my housemate. He was normal in behaviour, and in good spirits. I do not recall the exact conversations with Ross, but the following was discussed;

- (a) Ross wanted myself and Paul to go out for a few drinks. We declined, and felt comfortable because he was going to meet a workfriend, I think his name was Philip.
- (b) Ross, Paul and I discussed going to a movie on Saturday. We discussed what was on, and Ross made definite arrangements for this meeting.

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10. I do not recall whether Ross had a meal with us but I remember he made a few telephone calls from the house that evening. I do not recall who he spoke to, but I believe the calls were in relation to organising a meeting with his friend Philip.

11. About 11pm Ross left my house, and drove off in the Nissan Pulsar to go to the Oxford Hotel to meet his friend Philip. It was understood that Ross would stay at my house during the course of the weekend.

12. When Ross left, he was casually dressed in shoes, jeans and a turtle neck sloppy joe. I recall he was wearing a jacket. It was the middle of winter, and would have been typically mild in temperature.

13. During the course of the evening, Ross removed pieces of paper from his pockets with telephone numbers recorded on them and placed them on a table. I do not recall what he said, but it was clear he did not want to take the notes out with him.

14. Early the following evening, the Saturday, Paul and I became concerned about Ross as he had not returned to my house. I think either Paul or myself rang Paddington Police Station that evening about Ross not returning home, but I can not be sure. I had it in the back of my mind that Ross may have made alternate plans for the weekend, and that was why he did not return to my house.

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15. I know that Ross was presenting the Win4 news on Sunday nights, and on the Sunday night either Paul or myself rang the T.V. station. We were informed that Ross did not attend work.

16. On Sunday the 23 July 1989, Paul and I attended Paddington Police Station and spoke with Constable Daniel ROBINSON and reported Ross missing.

17. Paul and I were concerned for Ross, and Paul said to me, "Can you think where he might of gone?" I suggested we have a look around Marks Park at Tamarama, where I met Ross. From conversations with Ross, I knew that he had gone to Marks Park on about three other occasions since I had met him to meet gay men for casual sex.

18. On the Sunday evening, Paul and I went to Marks Park at Tamarama, and beside the park we found Ross's car parked. The car was approximately on the corner of Kenneth Street and Marks Lane, on the ocean side of the street. It was darkness when we found the car. I do not recall if the ocean was calm or rough at this time. I noticed that Ross's wallet was on the front passenger seat of the vehicle, and there was rubbish from the McDONALD's restaurant on the front seat also.

19. I do not recall if Paul or myself walked around Marks Park at that time to look for Ross.

20. Paul and I returned to Paddington Police Station, and again spoke with a Constable and informed them of the location of Ross's car. We in turn were informed of the recovery of a body which may be that of Ross WARREN.

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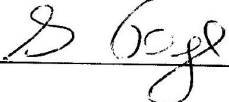
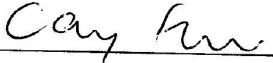
21. Shortly after (still the Sunday night), we travelled to Rose Bay and spoke with Police and we were taken to the Glebe Mortuary to identify a body which had been found in the ocean, I believe in the Dover Heights area. Shortly after arriving at the morgue, we had a conversation with a police officer and it was decided that the body was not that of Ross WARREN. We did not view the body.

22. The following morning, Monday the 24th of July, 1989, Paul and I went to Marks Park and walked around the park, particularly the ocean track. We saw nothing, and I walked down an access route to the rockshelf below Marks Park. At the bottom of the access route, on a nearby rock ledge, I saw a set of keys. I recognised these as belonging to Ross WARREN. The keys appeared to have been placed on the ledge, and were in a pocket which had been formed in the rock.

23. I stayed on the rock shelf and yelled to Paul that I found the keys. Paul went away, and contacted Police. I do not recall whether police came to Marks Park on this occasion, but I think they did.

24. Paul and I earlier did a door knock of houses in the area, and spoke with residents. No information was gained as a result of speaking with residents.

25. I do not believe that Ross WARREN would have committed suicide. I base this on my knowledge of his personality, and outlook on life.

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26. I am aware that Marks Park in the late 1980's was the seen of at least one assault on a gay man as a result of homophobia.

27. I would describe Ross WARREN as being 24 years old at the time, 175 centimetres tall, medium build, medium complexion, short brown hair, green/hazel eyes.

28. I have not seen or heard from Ross WARREN since July 1989. The exact circumstances of his disappearance are not known to me.

29. Other than myself, Paul and Philip, I do not recall the names of any of Ross WARREN's associates.

Witness: S. Boyd Signature: Craig Howard Ellis