

NSW Police  
**INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE**

**Investigation:** SF Macnamir  
**Title of Note:** [REDACTED] informally interviewed

**Narrative:**

On Thursday 26 September, 2013 Detective Senior Constable Paul RULLO and Detective Sergeant Penelope Brown attended [REDACTED] the home of [REDACTED]. Police had recently learned via a PACE alert that [REDACTED] had returned to Australia from Croatia.

[REDACTED] is listed as a POI by SF Macnamir due to historic gay-hate related convictions and information from Registered Source 1140772. [REDACTED] was 20 years old at the time of Scott's death.

When Police first arrived, the parents of [REDACTED], Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were home and invited police in. As a means of provoking relevant comment by the parents, Mrs [REDACTED] was advised that [REDACTED] of the reason why they wanted to speak with [REDACTED] and she was shown photocopies of print media articles relating to the death of Scott Johnson and other gay related murders in Sydney.

Mrs [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has advised her that he was made aware that Police were likely to speak to him due to the several interviews conducted by police of his current and former friends/family. Mrs [REDACTED] was adamant that her son [REDACTED] could not be responsible nor involved in Scott's death stating that [REDACTED] was now of good character and since the time of his charging in 1986/87 her son had not been in trouble with the police again. In relation to his previous assault charges Mrs [REDACTED] informed police that her son associated with friends of bad character, naming [REDACTED] who influenced her son to do these bad things.

In the presence of Police, Mrs. [REDACTED] contacted her son and advised we were in the home wanting to speak with him. [REDACTED] informed her that he would be home in an hour. Police left the premises advising that they would return. Police were contacted by [REDACTED] informing that he had returned home and was willing to speak with police. Investigating Police advised that they would attend his residence shortly.

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About 2.40pm Police returned to [REDACTED]. Police explained to [REDACTED] the reason for their visit and he agreed to answer questions, stating, "I have done nothing wrong, I have nothing to hide". An informal interview commenced at 2.45pm.

Police noted that [REDACTED]'s copies of the print media that were left with his mother were lying face down on the dining room table. These documents were turned over and used as a resource when explaining the reason for attendance. [REDACTED] asked which one was Scott JOHNSON. Police pointed to the picture of Scott that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald article dated July 27-28, 2013.

Question regarding past offences

He was asked about his prior convictions for assaults and robs and what motivated him to commit these offences. His response was that there had been a four (4) year old girl [REDACTED] at Narrabeen public toilets. He was referring to the toilets at the bus terminus. About a week or so later whilst he was in the vicinity of these toilets he said, "a guy came up to me and said G'day, he went to grab me and I hit him."

Then he went on to talk about the charges that included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Detective Sergeant BROWN showed [REDACTED] a large folder that contained charge sheets and court information about the numerous charges. He was shown the indictments and copies of his hand written and typed statements. He denied being involved with the offences that occurred at North Sydney and Reef Beach. He stated that he was forced to make a hand written statement copying the one made by [REDACTED], by corrupt Detectives, PATERSON and PEATIE. He informed police that if they were to compare his and the handwritten statements of [REDACTED] that they would recognize the content would be similar and that at the time of writing the statement he did not understand some of the words used. He stated that he was physically assaulted by police, held in custody for three days and spoke to various Detectives during this period. He freely admitted to the offence that occurred at Narrabeen Terminus but emphatically denied the others. He reiterated to investigating Police on 26/09/2013 that he would still "not admit to offences he did not do".

[REDACTED] recalls that he was subsequently charged with 52 offences but by the time the matter got to court the offences numbered 12 (inclusive of 'back-up' charges). He was convicted and sentenced to eighteen (18) months weekend detention. [REDACTED] stated that he commenced the weekend detention shortly after the matter was heard at court and did not miss a weekend. When at court, he was represented by [REDACTED]. When discussing this he stated this was a very difficult time of his life.

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When clarifying the number of offences he committed, [REDACTED] stated there were only two offences he admitted to (contradicting his earlier statement this date that he had committed one offence at Narrabeen Terminus). These were the assault offence on the 25 December, 1986 at Narrabeen Beach (charged) and one at Narrabeen terminus after the four year old girl incident (no known report). With regard to the offence dated 25/12/1986, investigating Police showed [REDACTED] a copy of his statement dated 1 January 1987 which related to a male he assaulted near Narrabeen Surf Club on 25/12/1986. [REDACTED] was observed to briefly read this document and he then handed it back to DSGT BROWN saying that he did not want to read any more of it. [REDACTED] appeared repulsed when looking at this statement due to the content of a male committing an act of indecency towards him at the time.

He also mentioned that when he was charged in 1986 he stopped associating with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that if he happened to see them in the street or at a venue he would be polite and say hello but did not engage with them any further. Since being charged in 1986 [REDACTED] stated that he did not involve himself with any criminal conduct and spent the majority of his time with his then girlfriend [REDACTED] who later became his wife.

Knowledge of North Head & Gay Beat/s

[REDACTED] was questioned about his knowledge and attendance at North Head Manly. He stated that he first started going to North Head when he got his driver's license around 1985. As this time he only went to North Head with his now ex-wife [REDACTED] and other women for the purpose of being physically intimate with them. For this purpose he would drive to North Head via the roadway and follow the road to the car parking area which overlooks the city to the west.

[REDACTED] was shown a panoramic photo of the east side of North Head, including the cliff and ocean. He responded that he had started spear fishing in the water on the east side of North Head about ten years ago. [REDACTED] stated that prior to that time he did not go to the east side of North Head and that he has never visited the eastern cliff top area depicted in the photo.

He was asked how he would get around the local area when he was in Year 11 and 12. His response was that if he did not have a car to drive or a lift that he wouldn't bother to get on public transport. He stated that young people in the Narrabeen area would only stay in their area generally as it was too far to travel out.



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NP16 stated that he was not aware that North Head, Manly, had a 'gay beat'. When asked about his knowledge of other 'gay beats' in the Northern Beaches area he nominated two, being the Narrabeen Bus Terminus and the toilets at North Narrabeen beach.

Known Associates

When discussing his associates, in response to questions about NP13 he replied how he first met NP11, which was outside the NP15, which was owned and operated by NP14's in-laws. He explained that NP14 was much older than them and would drive them around as they did not drive.

NP13 could not recall how he became friendly with NP10, but believed it was through one of his friends but wasn't sure exactly. He mentioned that NP10 could be unpredictable due to sustaining a brain injury from a car accident which involved his parents when he was child. He stated that NP10's mood could suddenly change.

With regard to NP16, NP12 made mention that NP10 thought of himself as having the fighting skills of a 'Ninja'.

When asked who his friends were in 1988 that said that he spent time with NP10 and his brother NP12, NP10, NP11 and NP15. NP10 mentioned that he would attend the Lansdowne Hotel with NP10 as NP10 was a "rockabilly" and went to the rockabilly dances there. He stated that he stopped associating with NP10 and NP11 when they became involved in drugs.

He mentioned that he only saw NP10 "once in a blue moon", and that he did not go to school with him. He was asked about NP10 and NP11. He denied knowing both. He was asked if he associated with an Islander in 1988. He mentioned he knew a 'Chris' but did not know the surname, and that he did not know where this Chris lived or how he came to be friends with him.

NP13 was asked about his knowledge of the Pizza Shop in Narrabeen that has been identified in this investigation as a popular hangout venue for youths in the late 80's. He replied that he went there "once in the blue moon".

He was questioned about his knowledge of the death of NP10. NP13 replied that he had heard that NP10 had hung himself in jail.



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He again stated that he stopped hanging out with [NP13], [NP15] and [NP10] when he got charged and mentioned the disgrace it brought to his family. He was asked when the last time he saw any of this group was, he replied he last saw [NP15] who was working at a funeral he attended and they exchanged greetings but nothing more. He stated that he was aware that [NP15] was in a gay relationship having been told by [NP15]'s ex wife or her family. He stated that he hasn't seen [NP15] for years, but if and when they do cross paths he would not ignore him.

[NP9] was asked about his relationship with [I432]. He replied that he got to know the [redacted] family when working at the [redacted] doing tiling work. He stated that he got on very well with the family in particular the father of [I432] and [I433]. [I434] The friendship was very close in that [I434] trusted [NP9] to take his son's [I432] and [I433] out on leisure activities. He mentioned that [I434] was a very busy man running his business and as [I434] was a single parent he did not have the time to spend with his son's. He asked [NP9] to do this on his behalf. [NP9] stated he was not paid and he was happy to do it as [I434] was a good friend. He stated that he was an executor of [I434]'s will but [I432] had his name removed when [I434] was on his death bed. When asked how being removed from the will made him feel, [NP9] stated he was not interested in [I434] money. [NP9] explained that he was good friends with [I434] and did not care about the money. During this conversation, [NP9] mentioned that once [I434] had died [I432] threw his brother out of the home they shared. He stated that [I433] then aged 16 returned from a medical appointment after being diagnosed with an ear infection to find all his belongings had been thrown out of the family home onto the street, by his brother [I432]. As he had nowhere to live, [I433] came and lived with [NP9] and his wife [NP9] and their children for a period of time.

[NP9] was asked if he knew [I435] he replied he did not know the name. In response to the question about his knowledge of [I436] and [I437] he replied he did not know them but when informed about their father owning and operating a pizza shop he stated he knew of their father.

[NP9] was asked if he knew [NP10] [NP9] replied he knew him from school and the local area and mentioned that [NP10] was a few years younger than him. He knew [NP10] was a "skinhead" but did not know who he hung out with. He stated [NP10] played football and believed that [NP10] missing a football match or training session was the instigation for him being reported missing and subsequently located deceased in his front yard. [NP9] was asked

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about [NP10] known associates, he said he only knew his younger brother [NP257]. He was aware of [NP10]'s reputation as being a 'poofter basher' from local gossip. When asked if he ever thought to speak to [NP10] about penalties if you got convicted of such offences, he stated, "No, I didn't." He was asked if he had knowledge of the "Italians" that police had heard [NP10] hung out with, he replied he was unsure.

[NP10] was asked about the [REDACTED] brothers, [I438] and [I439]. He said he went to school with [I438] but was not friendly with him.

[NP10] was asked specifically if there was any other person he was closely associated with at that time and to this day that we could speak with to provide any information on this matter.

[NP10] stated that Police had "mentioned all the guys already". This question was asked to ascertain if [REDACTED] would name the registered source at this point but he did not.

As a means of provoking additional relevant comment, police advised [REDACTED] that he could keep the photocopies of the print media and he replied, "I don't like looking at dead people." He was again offered this material prior to police leaving and he again refused stating that it did not "interest" him.

Direct Allegation

[REDACTED] was asked if he was involved in or responsible for the death of Scott JOHNSON. He denied any knowledge of or involvement in Scott's death and stated that he would not push or throw anyone off a cliff. He denied committing any offence at North Head. [NP10] stated that when Police were to speak to Scott's family he expressed that Police should tell them that he was not responsible for Scott's death and he asked to pass onto them his condolences. He sympathised with Mr Stephen JOHNSON and he mentioned that if he was in the same situation and had the funds he would do the same thing. The informal interview was concluded at 4.25pm. It should be noted that approximately half way through the informal interview that [REDACTED] [NP10]'s parents returned home. Mrs. [REDACTED] sat nearby to where Police were speaking with her son. She did not interfere with the enquiries police were making.

The information provided by the registered source under inducement was not directly put to [REDACTED] so as not to jeopardise his identification.

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Whilst speaking to [REDACTED] it became apparent to SF Macnamir investigators that it appeared [REDACTED] may have had intellectual difficulties. It is the opinion of investigators that these intellectual difficulties may be the result of a lower level IQ. [REDACTED] when speaking to Police could hold a conversation well but he did request explanations to some questions being asked and seemed to be easily distracted. Police recognising this adjusted their questioning techniques to suit.

Prepared By:	Detective Sergeant Penelope Brown and Detective Senior Constable Paul RULLO
Registered No:	[REDACTED]
Date:	26/09/2013