

**ISSUE:**

Request by Detective Senior Constable Tamer KILANI, (██████) and Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL (██████) from the Unsolved Homicide Team, Homicide Squad for travel to Auckland, New Zealand, to obtain statements from witnesses, Amanda Jane EVANS and Luke ████████ 194

(Strike Forces NEIWAND and MACNAMIR relate)

**BACKGROUND:****Strike Force Neiwand**

Strike Force NEIWAND was established in 2016 to re-investigate the suspicious deaths of three males in the Sydney suburb of Bondi between 1985 and 1989 inclusive. These three males were Gilles MAITAINI, born 25 October 1958, last seen on 15 September 1985, Ross WARREN, born 26 October 1964, last seen on 22 July 1989 and John RUSSELL, born 29 November 1957, whose body was located on 23 November 1989. RUSSELL's death and the disappearances of the two unaccounted for male's are considered suspicious. All three men were known to be homosexuals. Their sexual preference is relevant to the investigation, in that it is believed that homosexual males who frequented a park known as Marks Park in the Bondi area were considered 'soft targets' to robbery offenders.

Investigations were conducted by local police at the time of initial reporting, followed by a more thorough investigation in 2001 by Rose Bay Police under the reference Strike Force Taradale. A related inquest commenced at the Glebe Coroner's Court in 2003 and, after a few adjournments, concluded in 2005 with Deputy State Coroner MILLEDGE being satisfied that WARREN and RUSSELL had been murdered. Coroner MILLEDGE concluded with an open finding in relation to MAITAINI, however, suggested that it was highly likely that he also had been murdered.

As stated, one of the unaccounted for males was Ross WARREN. WARREN was last seen in the early hours of July 22 1989 in the Darlinghurst area. It is believed he may have been met with foul play and subsequently murdered. Investigators are currently focussing on the last known movements of WARREN, and, in doing so, have contacted witnesses who knew WARREN. This contact has enabled investigators to a gain a greater understanding of WARREN's lifestyle and his intended plans on the evening of his disappearance. Statements in relation to WARREN's disappearance were supplied to police by witnesses in 1989 and 2001; however, WARREN's last movements and associates were not adequately explored. Strike Force NEIWAND investigators have identified inconsistencies and half truths in relation to two of these witnesses and are now considering these two as 'Persons of Interest'.

**Strike Force Macnamir**

On 10 December 1988, the body of Scott JOHNSON, born 27 November 1961, was located at the bottom of the cliffs at North Head, Manly. Initial investigations concluded that no foul play existed and attributed his death to suicide. Strike Force MACNAMIR was established by the Homicide Squad in 2013 to re-investigate the death and establish if JOHNSON had in fact met with foul play. The investigation is currently part heard at inquest before the NSW State Coroner with a recommencement date of 13 June 2017.

**COMMENT:****Strike Force Neiwand**

The witness, EVANS, has spoken with police by phone and supplied information via email in relation to WARREN's last movements, and, in particular, her observations and knowledge of the identified persons of interest actions surrounding WARREN's disappearance. EVANS' evidence assists in supporting the inconsistencies identified in relation to the versions supplied by these persons of interest.

The witness, Amanda EVANS has confirmed her willingness to assist police and formalise her evidence by supplying an official Witness Statement.

The historical homicide investigation into the murder Ross WARREN is complex and involves a large number of witnesses and possibly multiple offenders. In light of this complexity, only investigators with an intimate knowledge of this Strike Force will have the ability to obtain a detailed and adequate statement from the witness as required. Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL, is the Officer in Charge of Strike Force NEIWAND and Detective Senior Constable Tamer KILANI is a Senior Investigator. Both investigators have intimate and thorough knowledge of the investigation complex intricacies contained within it.

**Strike Force Macnamir**

On 17 February 2017, New Zealand National, [REDACTED] 194, born [REDACTED] [REDACTED], sent an email to an associate informing her of him being in a previous relationship with a male in 2003 who had allegedly made admissions of throwing homosexual males off cliffs in the Bondi Area. A similar message was posted in 2016 on a Facebook page named Justice for Scott Johnson. This information became known by Strike Force MACNAMIR, who spoke with [REDACTED] 194 by phone. [REDACTED] 194 informed police that he prepared to meet with investigators in Auckland, New Zealand and supply a formal statement. The Crown Solicitors assisting the State Coroners have subsequently issued a request requesting a statement be obtained from [REDACTED] 194.

As with EVANS, the information to be supplied by [REDACTED] 194 is relevant to the Strike Force MACNAMIR investigation and will aid in establishing the truth surrounding Scott JOHNSON's death.

It is requested that Detectives CHEBL and KILANI travel to Auckland and obtain an evidentiary statement from the witness Amanda EVANS. It is envisaged that investigators will require 3 days to complete this task. Two days travel is incorporated in this. It is anticipated that only one day will be required to obtain the statement.

Annexed to this report are the following documents:

- A. Operational Overseas Travel Application Form.
- B. Proposed Travel Itinerary.
- C. Copies of Passports of Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL and Detective Senior Constable Tamer KILANI.

Senior Constable John TORRESS from the NSW Police Prosecutions Major Incident Legal Advice Section and Canberra based New Zealand Police Liaison Officer, Detective Inspector Tom FITZGERALD have both advised that a Mutual Assistance Request to obtain a statement in New Zealand is not required due to enquiries being conducted not involving a person of interest.

As stated, I have completed and attached an overseas travel application form. The initial transport cost would tentatively be **\$3162.11**. The quote is inclusive of economy return air travel for two police officers, accommodation of minimum 4 star rating, motor vehicle rental, meals and incidentals for 3 days. This time frame is required in order to liaise with local authorities and attend to obtaining an extensive statement. I understand that funding for significant major overseas inquiries are available from Deputy Commissioner (Field Operations) Cost Centre 3003.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That this application be supported.
2. This report is forwarded to the NSW Police Prosecutions Command, Major Incident Legal Advice Section so the request may progress further.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That this application be supported.

Tamer KILANI  
Detective Senior Constable  
Homicide Squad,  
State Crime Command  
EN - [REDACTED]  
08 May 2017

1. Investigations Co-ordinator, Homicide Squad, State Crime Command.

**Supported.** Investigators from the 2001 investigation into the disappearance of Ross Warren - Strike Force Taradale – failed to obtain a statement from Amanda Evans. Evans is a crucial witness to the investigation as she claims that Warren went missing in the early hours of Sunday 23/07/1989 rather than the early hours of Saturday 22/07/1989. Evan’s will also be able to elaborate on the details of some of Warren’s closest associates and their movements at the time of his disappearance. Detectives Chebl and Kilani have an intimate knowledge of this investigation and their proposed travel to obtain the nominated statement is vital to the investigation. Costings are incorporated in the body of this report.

