

**David Laidlaw**

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**From:** Stuart Leggat email  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 October 2018 14:41  
**To:** Jason Dickinson  
**Cc:** David Laidlaw; Chris Olen email; Scott Cook  
**Subject:** Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Sirs,

I forwarded the attached email to Mr Crandell's staff office this morning.

Kind Regards

Stewart LEGGAT | Detective Inspector | Unsolved Homicide Unit | Homicide Squad | State Crime Command | New South Wales Police Force [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Stewart Leggat [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice on 31/10/2018 14:36 -----  
 From: Stewart Leggat [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Justine Thompson [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 31/10/2018 08:51  
 Subject: Re: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

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Hi Justine,

Detective Sergeant Morgan contacted the informant this morning and will submit an intelligence report.

For Mr Crandell's information regarding John RUSSELL: -

In 2001, **Operation Taradale** led by former Detective Sergeant PAGE was established as a coronial investigation to re-examine the WARREN disappearance and the RUSSELL death. In 2002, MATTAINI's disappearance formed part of that re-investigation following contact from his partner. The investigative focus of **Taradale** was the possible nexus between youth gangs and suspected homicide. Covert measures were deployed on several persons of interest, without success. Strategies during the covert phase of the operation included interviewing POI, their families and associates.

On 09/03/2005 Magistrate Jacqueline Milledge [Senior Deputy State Coroner] delivered her findings following an Inquest into these matters, which was premised on the 'gay hate' line of inquiry - the focus of the Taradale investigators.

SF NEIWAND was established in 2016 to re-investigate the suspicious disappearance and death of Giles MATTAINI from Bondi on 15/09/1985; the suspicious disappearance and death of Ross Bradley WARREN from Bondi on 22/07/1989 and; the suspected murder of John Alan RUSSELL at Bondi on 23/11/1989. The investigative focus were areas not previously explored in depth including victimology, associates and the last known movements of the three victims.

Investigators also reviewed case file items from the missing persons investigation relating to Warren [1989] and coronial investigation for Russell [1989]; The Homicide Squad – South [1989/1990]; and Operation TARADALE and subsequent Inquest.

The original 1989 RUSSELL investigation differed from the Warren & Mattiani matters in that:

- a crime scene was established and processed; and
- a time line of the victim's movements established.

TARADALE investigative focus on "gay hate" was supported by the opinion of pathologist Doctor CALA. The Coroner in her 2005 findings placed considerable weight on Doctor CALA's opinion. That opinion was based on a review of crime scene photographs. One of the photographs depicted loose hairs on the rear of RUSSELL's hand, which Doctor CALA claimed were not his [hairs no longer available]. Doctor CALA also stated that the position of RUSSELL's body at the base of the cliff was consistent with him being '*deliberately thrown off the cliff perhaps*'.

**SF NEIWAND:** In 2017, Forensic Pathologists Professor Duflou and Professor Moynham conducted a review of the available evidence. The positioning of the body and injuries sustain by Russell did not assist them in determining the manner of death [accident, suicide or homicide]. Senior AFP Forensic Scientist Dr Adine BOEHME, Biology & Forensics [hair expert] was unable to provide an opinion in relation to the origins of the hairs depicted in the crime scene photographs due their quality.

RUSSELL's level of intoxication and related impairment may have contributed to him falling from the cliff. The walk way at Marks Park (slight incline/decline) had no barriers and there was a steep drop from the cliffs edge. The available facts could support death by misadventure and/or homicide. There are no identified suspect/s and/or witnesses and no forensic evidence.

Regards

Stewart LEGGAT | Detective Inspector | Unsolved Homicide Unit | Homicide Squad | State Crime Command | New South Wales Police Force | [REDACTED]

Christopher Olen---31/10/2018 06:38:28---Stewart, I believe this matter was reinvestigated by your team.

From: Christopher Olen/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Stewart Leggat/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Cc: David Laidlaw/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 31/10/2018 06:38  
 Subject: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Stewart,

I believe this matter was reinvestigated by your team.

**Detective Chief Inspector Chris Olen APM | Unsolved Homicide Unit | State Crime Command New South Wales Police Force | [REDACTED]**



----- Forwarded by Christopher Olen/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice on 31/10/2018 06:37 -----

From: Justine Thompson/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: David Laidlaw/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Christopher Olen/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Cc: Scott A Cook/[REDACTED]Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 30/10/2018 16:26  
 Subject: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]



Good afternoon,

The below email from a member of the public was sent through to Supt. Adam Whyte at Liverpool PAC, and was forwarded to ETC due to Assistant Commissioner Crandell's involvement in Strike Force Parabell.

The information provided by the member of the public may relate to the death of John Russell, which I believe is with UHT.

Is it possible to have an investigator review this information as early as possible.

Regards



Chief Inspector Justine Thompson | Staff Officer  
Commander's Office, Education & Training Command  
New South Wales Police Force



----- Forwarded by Justine Thompson [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice on 30/10/2018 16:18 -----

From: Anthony Crandell [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice  
To: Justine Thompson [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
Date: 30/10/2018 16:14  
Subject: Re: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Justine,

Can you please forward to Unsolved Homicide. The information regarding the hair, I believe is from the below case albeit a fair time apart. Early contact by an investigator from Unsolved Homicide would be good given the Parliamentary Inquiry about to take place.

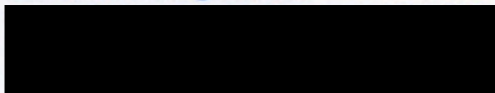
36.	John RUSSELL	Date of Death 23/11/1989	Unsolved	SF PARRABELL Suspected Bias Crime	ACADEMIC REVIEW Insufficient Information
<p><b>Identity:</b> John Alan Russell was 31 years old at the time of his death.</p> <p><b>Personal History:</b> Mr Russell lived with his brother at Bondi. He was employed in two jobs and had the support of his family. At the time of his death he was excited about plans to build a kit home on his father's farm at Wollombi, funded by an inheritance. He also intended to travel around Australia.</p> <p><b>Location of Body/Circumstances of Death:</b> Mr Russell's body was discovered lying on rocks at the base of a cliff below a popular Bondi to Tamarama walking path, known as Marks Park. The position of Mr Russell's body was unusual with his head facing the rocks and his feet towards the water. Marks Park was a well-known gay beat.</p> <p><b>Sexual Orientation:</b> Mr Russell identified as gay.</p> <p><b>Coroner/Court Findings:</b> The original Coroners finding stated that Mr Russell died from, <i>'Effects of multiple injuries sustained then and there when he fell from a cliff to the rocks below, but whether he fell accidentally or otherwise the evidence does not enable me to say'</i>. In 2002 the circumstances of Mr Russell's death were reinvestigated by Strike Force Taradale which indicated possible links between other murders and violent assaults against gay men in this area and other gay beats. One identified link involved groups of youths targeting gay men at Bondi and Alexandria including the murder of William Allen (<i>Parrabell Case 30</i>); the murder of Wayne Tonks (<i>Parrabell Case 41</i>); the murder of Raymond Keam (<i>Parrabell Case 22</i>); and the disappearance (suspected murder) of Ross Warren (<i>Parrabell Case 34</i>) among other incidents of violence against gay men. In 2005 a second Coronial Inquest was held with the Deputy State Coroner finding that Mr Russell died at Marks Park, North Bondi between the 22 and 23 November</p>					

1989. The Deputy State Coroner stated, 'the cause of death is multiple injuries sustained when he was thrown from the cliff onto rocks, by a person or persons unknown.' The death of Mr Russell remains unsolved.  
**SF Parrabell concluded there was evidence to suspect a bias crime**

Thanks



**Assistant Commissioner Anthony Crandell APM | Commander**  
 Education & Training Command



▼ Justine Thompson--30/10/2018 12:17:40--Sir, See below information from a member of the public. Is this one for unsolved homicide?

From: Justine Thompson [redacted] Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Anthony Crandell [redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 30/10/2018 12:17  
 Subject: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Sir,

See below information from a member of the public. Is this one for unsolved homicide?

Regards



**Chief Inspector Justine Thompson | Staff Officer**  
 Commander's Office, Education & Training Command  
 New South Wales Police Force



----- Forwarded by Justine Thompson [redacted] Staff/NSWPolice on 30/10/2018 12:14 -----

From: Sina Castiglione [redacted] Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Justine Thompson [redacted] Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 30/10/2018 12:06  
 Subject: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Hello Justine,

As discussed, please see email below.

Kind regards,  
 Sina.

**Sina Castiglione**



**Executive Officer**NSW Police Force | Liverpool City Police Area Command  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Sina Castiglione [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice on 30/10/2018 12:04 -----

From: Adam Whyte [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Sina Castiglione [REDACTED] /Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 04/10/2018 13:57  
 Subject: Fw: Task Force Parable possible information [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Hey Sina,

We will need to acknowledge this one and send along to the appropriate investigative area.

Cheers

Adam

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**Superintendent Adam Whyte** APM | Commander, Liverpool City Police Area Command |South West Metropolitan Region | [New South Wales Police Force](#)  
[REDACTED]

🌱 Please consider the environment before printing your emails and attachments 🌱

----- Forwarded by Adam Whyte [REDACTED] Staff/NSWPolice on 04/10/2018 13:56 -----

From: [REDACTED] 1455 [REDACTED]  
 To: Adam Whyte email [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Date: 30/09/2018 13:13  
 Subject: Task Force Parable possible information

Dear Superintendent White,

My name is [REDACTED] 1455 and I would like to share some information that is potentially relevant to Task Force Parable.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was called [REDACTED] NP279 and I believe his surname was [REDACTED] NP279[REDACTED] NP279 had grown up around the [REDACTED] and had been a [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

When I knew him he was [REDACTED] occasionally [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was talking to him [REDACTED] He began telling me about a fight he had been in using lots of expletives, such as 'fucking faggots' etc. He preceded to tell me about this fight and he mentioned that the person had ripped a chunk of hair from his scalp. He went to show me and then stopped dead cold like he had said something he shouldn't have. I remember at the time thinking that it was very odd the way that he stopped and it seemed very suspicious.

He seemed to get into fights regularly on the weekend and his knuckles were bashed in.

[REDACTED] NP279 [REDACTED]

[redacted] NP279 [redacted] I realised the extent of his homophobia. I understood then that his swearing was always directed at gay people and that I suspected all of the fights he got into involved gay people.

NP279 [redacted] He would rage expletives about homosexuals [redacted]

[redacted] I didn't think much about this time until about seven years ago when I was reading a SMH article online about re-opening the inquest into gay deaths. One particular story was about a man who had fallen to his death clutching a handful of his attackers hair.

I instantly wondered about that conversation all those years ago when NP279 had stopped himself talking to me as if he had said too much.

With the latest media coverage and the establishment of Task Force Parable, I feel compelled to share this information on the slim chance that it has some relevance.

Regards,

I455

[redacted]

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