

RESUME OF INQUIRIES RE; THE MURDER OF JOHN GORDON HUGHES, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING THE 31 DECEMBER, 1989.

Police in Charge: Det. Const. 1c M. PLOTECKI  
RCSS Homicide Squad.

Facts : AS PER RESUME DATED THE 28.5.89

Inquiries :

12.9.89

On this date the suspect Mark Phillip LOCKE, born. [REDACTED] was interviewed concerning this matter. At this time Locke provided Police with a detailed account of his movements in Brisbane at the time of Hughes death. Subsequent inquiries through Det. Sgt. PASS of the Queensland Homicide Squad have proved conclusively that LOCKE was in Brisbane at the time of the murder. This proof being in the fashion of evidence from reliable witnesses where LOCKE picked up his methodome and from LOCKES bank records which show he withdrew cash from a Brisbane branch of his bank on the date of the murder. In LOCKES interview and subsequent statement however, LOCKE informed Police that prior to him going to Brisbane, in late February, 1989, the person Ian Stuart JONES, as associate of both him and the victim HUGHES, had approached him and with a plan to rip HUGHES off for drugs and money. JONES was apparently upset with HUGHES over HUGHES going to the Police concerning property he had stolen from him (HUGHES). LOCKE alleges that JONES said to him "I'll fix him properly, I'll kill the little cunt." LOCKE claims that he feared JONES so much he left for Brisbane to avoid him. A record of interview and statement were obtained from LOCKE.

14.9.89

The girlfriend of the suspect JONES, Kerrie Anne STANTON was reinterviewed concerning the movements of JONES. In a previous statement to Police STANTON had maintained that JONES was in Bathurst on the dates of the murder, the 5 & 6.5.89 and that she was with him over this period. Details of STANTONS travel arrangements and movements to and about Bathurst with JONES were obtained and a diary belonging to STANTON was also retained by Police. In a second statement to Police STANTON continued to maintain that JONES was with her in Bathurst during the period of the murder.

4.10.89

The suspect JONES was interviewed by Police. At this time JONES confirmed STANTONS account of his movements over the period covering the murder, maintaining that he was in Bathurst, residing at his premises at [REDACTED] Upfold street. He confirmed to Police that he was a heroin addict, however claimed that he had never seen the victim HUGHES sell drugs or that he ever obtained drugs from HUGHES.

Subsequent inquiries with JONES employer in Bathurst, Mitchell Plant Hire of [redacted] Vale Road, , have shown on thursday the 4.5.89, Jones finished work early at 2.30pm, and that he was off sick on the 5.5.89 and did not return to work until the 8.5.89. STANTON drove to Bathurst on the 3.5.89, this car being obtained from Budget Hire in Sutherland, arriving about 11pm (after being charged with PCA, on route to Bathurst) This car was returned to the Bathurst branch of Budget on the 6.5.89.

29.12.89

The female STANTON was re-interviewed by Police. At this time STANTON included certain details that she had omitted from her previous statements, apparently out of loyalty to her ex-de facto husband JONES. STANTON now claims that JONES whereabouts were not known to her on 5.5.89 to 6.5.89. Apparently JONES and STANTON fought on the morning of the 5.5.89, this altercation being over JONES wanting to borrow STANTONS hire car to "visit some friends". STANTON, who has been JONES defacto for 15 years, claims at the time of the fight JONES was suffering withdrawal from heroin, and indeed had been in this condition since her arrival in Bathurst on the night of the 3.5.89. As a result of the fight, JONES left the premises at Upfold Street around 10.30am on the 5.5.89 and was not seen again by STANTON until 11am on the 6.5.89. When JONES left the pemises he drove off in a green mini sedan, which he owned at that time. When JONES failed to appear home on the night of the 5.5.89, STANTON enlisted the aid of neighbours, whom she had befriended and made a search for JONES without success. JONES house mates at the time of this fight on the 5.5.89 can apparently verify the fight and the disappearance of JONES.

Upon JONES return he only told STANTON he had been with friends, which STANTON assumed were in Bathurst. STANTON noted on JONES return that he appeared to have obtained heroin and that he not longer was suffering withdrawal.

STANTON further informed Police that JONES had on a pervious occasion tried to strangle her using a scarf and that he had bashed and robbed other drug users in order to support his habit. STANTON has also admitted to Police that HUGHES did supply JONES with heroin and that JONES sold heroin for HUGHES. It therefore follows that JONES would have been aware of any hiding places HUGHES would have kept his drugs in his flat.

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STANTON further states that, whilst living with her in Bathurst, JONES had told numerous times that he was prepared to travel to Sydney for heroin if he needed to.

A number of items of clothing were also obtained from STANTON, which belong to JONES. Some of these items have been washed since the time of the murder, however 2 jackets and a jumper have not (as JONES had been in custody since June). These items have been handed to the Physical evidence section for examination.

At the present time JONES is on remand and is awaiting trial in Wollongong concerning a malicious wounding charge. He is presently reporting to the Chatswood Police Station.

It is anticipated that inquiries will need to be conducted in Bathurst to confirm STANTON's latest statement and to add to this statement's credibility. Inquiries will also need to be conducted in the town with regard to the present whereabouts of the green mini sedan used by JONES at the time of the murder. Information has also been received from an informant that a drug user by the nick name "Yankee John" may also be able to confirm the presence of JONES in Sydney on the 5.5.89 and inquiries are also pending re: this person's identity.

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31.12.89