

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Kings Cross Police Station.

Date: 6 May, 1989.

Name: N I C H O L A S Michelle Laurel  
(Surname in capitals)

Address: [Redacted] Chester Hill. 2162 Tel. No. [Redacted]

Occupation: Pensioner - Sickness benefits. STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence I would be prepared if necessary to give at Court as a witness.
2. 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
3. My date of birth is the [Redacted].
4. My name is Mechell Laurel NICHOLAS, and I reside in a defacto relationship at the above address with my boyfriend, Aaron Lee HILL. I am unemployed and presently in receipt of sickness benefits. I am also known by the name Michelle RICHARDS.
5. I have lived with Aaron HILL for the past 2 months, and first met him 2½ years ago. Through Arron I have met his friend, John HUGHES, whom I met 2 years ago, before Aaron went to gaol. John HUGHES lives in a large red brick block of flats, which are behind the Rex Hotel, at Potts Point. I think his room number is [Redacted]. To my knowledge, John worked for a hotel in the Kings Cross area, although I am unaware what he actually did. I am aware that John used to deal in heroin, that was about 2 years ago. Recently I believe John was on a methydome programme, and has not been dealing for the past couple of months. I do not know if John still takes heroin.
6. John and Arron meet each other regularly, with Arron visiting him twice to three times a week. Arron is also unemployed, he would usually visit John after we had had

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an arguement. Aaron has a heroin habit and to my knowledge uses about one to one and a half grams a week, although he tends to hide the amount of heroin he uses from me at present as I am preganant. I am unaware if Aaron was obtaining his heroin from John HUGHES or from some other source. I would only see John about one a week if that, usually at the Rex Hotel, although when Aaron visits John he does stay over about one a week, a Johns flat.

7. The last time I saw John HUGHES was on Wednesday the 3 May, 1989, about 11.15pm, at his flat. I had gone there with Aaron to pick up some of Aaron's clothes, which he had left there from a previous stay over. When we arrived <sup>at John's</sup> Aaron had a man called 'Gavin' with him, I am unaware of his surname, and another fellow whose name I was not told. I in fact was only told Gavins name the following night. I stayed at the flat only about 5 or 6 minutes and then left, by myself for home. Aaron spent the night at Johns' place. I would describe this man 'Gavin' as a white Australian Male, 174 cm tall, fair complexion, solid build, with medium length straight dark sandy hair. I cannot recall any tattoos or distinguishing features. I do not recall what he was wearing.

8. I would describe the other man there as a white Australian, about 174 cm tall, skinny build, with medium complexion, and black short curly hair.

9. On Friday the 5 May, 1989, I met Aaron at the Rex Hotel at 1.30am. To my knowledge Aaron had spent the remainder of Wednesday night/Thursday morning (the 4 May, 1989 at Johns' flat. Aaron told me he had spent the day with a guy named 'Adam', whom I do not know. Aaron also told me that 'Harry', I think his surname is GODOLFF or something, had gone away and had left the keys to his flat with Aaron. He told me we could sleep there instead of going back to Chester Hill on the train. Aaron showed me a set of keys to this flat, these being just to gold coloured keys. I

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think the flat is in Victoria Road, Kings Cross, I do not know the exact address. Its' near Saint Vincents Hospital. Aaron took me to this flat around 2am that night and we went to bed.

10. We slept most of the day of Friday the 5 May, 1989, at the flat, getting up about 4.30pm. Aaron and I then went to the Rex Hotel, in Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point. We then went around to Johns flats, but no one answered the security door when we 'buzzed' Johns flat. Johns flats having and intercom setup at the front door, that is the foyer area, and people in the units can answer the intercom and open the door from the flat inself. Aaron and I then walked around the streets until 8pm, when we returned to the Rex Hotel. Here we ran into Gavin who was drinking in the 'Bottoms Up' bar at the rear of the hotel. Gavin asked if we had seen John HUGHES and we said 'No, we've been trying since 5.30pm to get in touch with him.' Gavin said he had a dinner party to go to a Johns' place, and John had'nt been home. I thought this strange of John considering this. After that Aaron and I then started walking up and down the Cross area, and Aaron asked a couple of people, whom I don't know if they had seen John. One person did claim to have seen him, but I don't know his name. He told us he had seen John about midday on Friday the 5 May, 1989, with a guy who had a beard, he did'nt say where he had seen him.

11. Aaron and I then commenced to walk around some more, and at 1 am on Saturday the 6 May, 1989, we went to Johns flats' buzzer and John still did not answer. We then went back to the flat in Victoria Road, and went to sleep around 2am.

12. We got up around 11am on the 6 May, 1989, and then I caught a train to Chester Hill and got home around 1pm. Aaron was going to go and see John, then he was going to come home to my flat at Chester Hill.

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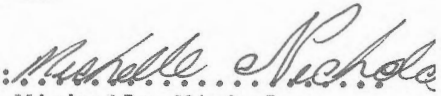
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13. About 1.30pm on Saturday the 6 May, 1989, I received a phone call from Aaron. At this time he told me he was at the Kings Cross Police Station and that nothing was wrong but that he was helping Police.

14. About 2.30pm that afternoon I received a second phone call from Aaron, in which he told me, "Come up to the Kings Cross Police Station, the Police want to talk to you. When you get there tell them I am Bill Saint JOHN." I said, "Yeah, okay, I'll be there when I catch the next train." I did not think this was odd as Aaron has been in trouble with Police before and has used false name, which I have vouched for, in order to get released. In the past he has used a similar name to Saint John in order to get released from Police custody.

15. When I arrived at the Kings Cross Police Station I used the name RICHARDS in identifying myself to Police, as I believed Aaron in trouble and that by using a false name also I could secure his release.

16. When I last saw Aaron this morning, Saturday the 6 May, 1989, he was wearing black track suit pants, white running shoes with a blue and red trim, and an Addis top which is white in colour with a blue and green stripe across the front of it. To my knowledge he has been wearing those clothes since Thursday the 4 May, 1989. Neither Aaron or myself own or have use of a particular motor vehicle. I recall too that Aaron also had a blue 'Puma' top with him.

Witness :  ..... Signed :  .....  
M. Plotecki  
Detective Constable First Class.  
Regional Crime Squad.  
Homicide Squad.  
6 May, 1989.

Witness: ..... Signature: .....

