

12/23/2

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Death of John Gordon HUGHES.

Place: Bathurst Police Station

Date: 6 January, 1990

Name: D O D D Lance Richard

Address: Rm16 Victoria Hotel, 3 Keppell St, Bathurst. Phn: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Truck Driver.

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 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. I am Lance Richard DODD, I am a divorced man, and I presently reside at the above address. I am currently employed as a truck driver with 'Larkin Brothers' general carriers, at [REDACTED] Upfold Street, Bathurst, phone No. [REDACTED]. I have been so employed for the past 6 months.

5. In mid March of 1989, I met the person Ian Stuart JONES, when JONES moved into the Victoria Hotel, at Bathurst to live. I befriended JONES who had come from the same area of Sydney as myself. About one week after JONES came to the Victoria Hotel, he and I moved into [REDACTED] Upfold Street, Bathurst, this residence being owned by Ron FLOWER, a friend of mine. Ron was going to Sydney for family reasons and didn't want the house

Witness: [Signature]

Signed: [Signature]

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to be empty whilst he was away. Ron and his wife Leone, stayed in Sydney about a month. In that time I lived with Ian JONES at the Upfold Street address. During this time JONES was working as a plant operator with Mitchell Plant Hire, in Vale Road, Bathurst.

6. At the beginning of May Ron and Leone FLOWER returned to the Upfold Street address and we all lived there together. Ian's girlfriend, Kerrie STANTON came up on two occasions, the first time, she flew up with East-West Airlines. From memory she only stayed two days. On the second occasion Kerrie came up, she drove up in a hire car, this being a white Holden Commodore sedan, that she had got from Budget Car Rentals.

7. On the second occasion Kerrie came up, it was a Wednesday night, I believe the 3 May, 1989. I recall that Kerrie was booked for PCA on the way up. I recall that I went to a darts competition, at one of the hotels just after Kerrie arrived, which I think was about 10.30pm.

8. The next day, Thursday the 4 May, 1989, I recall that JONES took off in Kerrie's hire car for about 4 or 5 hours. I recall that they had an argument (that is Kerrie and Ian) over this. I recall that over this period Ian's mood was very aggressive and volatile. The following day, Friday, the 5 May, 1989, Kerrie and Ian had a further fight, around mid-day. I was present in the house during this fight, but I cannot recall what it was over. I recall that Ian left the house and drove off in his green mini sedan. I did

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not see Ian again until 10.30am on Saturday the 6 May, 1989, when he returned home. I recall this time, as at 11am, that day, I went with Kerrie to Budget to return the hire car and Ian had only been home about a half hour before that. I only recall when Ian left he was wearing jeans, and a light shirt. He was also wearing a wind cheater style jacket, I think it was light grey. I am unaware if he had any other clothing in the car he was driving. Ian never told me where he had been over the period he was missing.

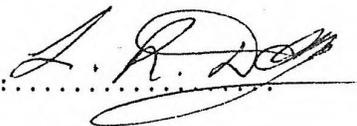
* 9. I recall that Kerrie became worried about Ians' whereabouts on the Friday night he went missing. I recall that she went out looking for him around 10pm. I did'nt bother to help her, and I recall that I went to the Leagues Club.

10. When Ian returned to the house on the 6 May, 1989, I cannot recall what he was wearing. I did notice that upon Ians' return on the 6 May, that he was not as aggressive or volatile as when he left, and generally he appeared calmer.

11. In the time that I resided with Ian JONES, he never mention where he had gone on the night he disappeared, and to my knowledge he only travelled to Sydney once for a Court appearance. I also cannot recall Ian ever mentioning any person by the name of John HUGHES to me.

12. Whilst living with Ian, in Upfold Street, he told me that he used to be a heroin addict. I recall when he told me this that I did not approve of it in any manner

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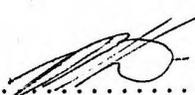
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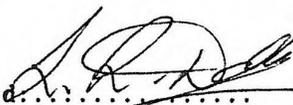
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whatsoever and that if he did use it in the house I would get rid of him out of the house. I also remember that Ian said to me that he had been dealing in heroin prior to coming to Bathurst but he did not elaborate on this. I would describe Ians personality as being easy going most of the time, but he would be subject to mood changes and then he would become aggressive and violent. These mood changes would come on Ian suddenly. I only saw Ians mood swing like this three times whilst I was living with him, and one of these occasions was when he disappeared for the period over the 5th and 6th of May.

13. The Mini sedan which I have mentioned earlier, as the car Ian left in on Friday the 5 May, 1989, belonged to Ian. He had brought it from Brian TOWNSEND, about 3 weeks before that date. Brian TOWNSEND lives at number [REDACTED] I would described this car as light green in colour, a panel van variant, with body work in relatively good condition, I think it was a 1968 model. Ian loaned this car to a mate of his, I do not know who, although I believe that he is a local Bathurst resident, about 10 days after the 6 May, 1989. Ian later told me this mate had smashed the car and that it was no longer driveable. I do not know the registration number of this car, nor do I know if Ian ever had it registered into his name.

Witness: 

M. PLOTECKI
Detective Constable 1c
RCSS Homicide Squad
6 January, 1990.

Signed: 

L.R. DODD