

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE

STATEMENT in matter of: Ian Stuart JONES charged Murder

Place: [REDACTED]

Date: 26 June, 1991

Name: HIGGINS, MARGARET ANN Tel. No: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Nursing Sister STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. 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.

2. I am 23 years of age.

3. My parents live at [REDACTED] Leura and on occasions I reside with them. I am presently employed at the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Leura and I have been so employed for the past five years. I help to look after 38 handicapped children.

4. Prior to February, 1989 I was living with my parents at Blackheath when I met a girl, Jill BERRY, whose maiden name is HIBBARD. We discussed moving into premises at Bathurst and subsequently in February, 1989 Jill and I signed a lease for either four or six months with Raine and Horne, George Street, Bathurst, in relation to premises at [REDACTED] Rankin Street, Bathurst. Jill and I moved in at that time and Jill had a boyfriend whom I knew as Scott MASON or DAVIDSON and he would sometimes stop overnight at our place. He wasn't paying any rent at

Witness: *[Signature]* Signature: *M Higgins*

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our place but he may have been giving some money to Jill. Whilst living with Jill I was still working at the hospital at Leura. During the time I stayed at this address I would work on the weekends at the hospital at Leura, commencing at 9.00am on Saturdays and would finish at 3.00pm on Sundays. I would then return home to Bathurst and arrive home about 8.00pm each Sunday night.

5. Detective Sergeant SMITH asked me today if I knew a person by the name of Ian Stuart JONES. I do not know any such person. He also asked me if any other person apart from Jill or Scott had ever stayed at our place at [redacted] Rankin Street, Bathurst during May, 1989 and I told him that no person stayed with us whilst I was at home. I then told Detective Sergeant SMITH that during the time that I stayed with Jill that I had met a person whom I knew only as 'Jacko'. I first met him through Jill and Scott whom he was friends with. I only met him on three occasions.

6. The first occasion was when I met him at the Victoria Hotel, Bathurst with Jill and Scott. The second occasion I met him was when I was at Rankin Street and I was on my way out one evening and Jacko had come around to see if Jill and Scott were at home, and I told him that they weren't and he left, and I then went out. The last occasion I saw him was when I came home on one occasion to tell Jill and Scott that I wouldn't be home for dinner that evening and Jacko was there. These are the only three occasions that I ever met the person Jacko.

7. I did not have much to do with this person,

Witness: *J. [unclear]* Signature: *M Higgins*

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Jacko, whom I would describe as being 6 foot three inches tall, broad shoulders, late twenties, long blond hair, sometimes in a pony tail. I did not know where he lived and I only knew that he worked at some machinery place in Bathurst and that sometimes he used to wear a blue baseball hat. I also knew that he used to drive a green Mini motor vehicle, the registration number of which I do not know.

8. In June, 1989 Jill and I were evicted out of our house in Rankin Street. I went to check at Raine and Horne to find out the reasons why we were evicted and I found out that there was \$750.00 arrears rent owing. I renegotiated with Raine and Horne for a new lease, explaining to them my story, that being that Jill had misused my rent money for her own use. I signed a new lease and I subsequently acquired a new flatmate, June ROYALL, who moved in with me at Rankin Street. She was a student attending the Charles Sturt University and she moved out in November, 1989 and I believe she has returned to New Zealand. I then returned home and lived with my parents and since the birth of my baby I have been alternating between Bathurst and Blackheath as my residential addresses.

9. After Jill moved out and I might say she left on bad terms, and I do not know where she is living at present, as is the case with Scott MASON. She has two sons, Jake aged three and Ross aged five, and I believe she is approximately 25 or 26 old. I have heard that she may be living on the North Coast somewhere.

10. I have not seen the person Jacko since the

Witness: Signature:


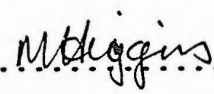
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times which I have stated and I do not know where he is. I do not know if he ever had a girlfriend whilst he was in Bathurst or elsewhere.

11. About January, this year, 1991, a solicitor from the Legal Aid Commission interviewed me at my parents home at Blackheath concerning this person JONES. He took some notes of our conversation and he was inquiring about certain dates in May, 1989, and whether or not this person JONES had ever stayed at the Rankin Street address. I told him that I didn't know any person by the name of Ian Stuart JONES, but I did know a person named 'JACKO'. About two weeks ago I got a phone call from my mother and she told me that a solicitor, with an American accent, had been looking for me at Mum's place, and she told him that I was here and that he was going to come up and see me about what I knew of the person JONES.

12. Later that same day our dogs started barking at the front and when I looked out the window there was a man there and the dogs wouldn't let him inside the yard and he then walked away, and the next thing the phone rang and it was this American guy and he said he was a solicitor or something, and that he was representing the guy JONES. He started to ask me questions about whether I knew him or had in fact seen him on some particular days in May, 1989. I told him that I couldn't remember them and he was trying to put dates into my head, and he wanted me to sign a statement, and I said "No", because I couldn't remember these dates he was talking about because they didn't mean anything to me.

Witness:  Signature: 

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13. I can say that I never kept any sort of diary so that I could remember these dates in May that this solicitor wanted me to remember and I can also say in answer to Detective Sergeant SMITH's proposition as to whether the person JONES stayed at Rankin Street in May, 1989, that he never stayed there whilst I was there. I repeat that I used to work on weekends in May, 1989 as I have told you earlier, and I never saw JONES on the weekends at my home in Rankin Street. My routine at the time I was living at Rankin Street, was that I would finish at the Mitchell College, which is now known as the 'Charles Sturt' College at about 4pm on a Friday afternoon. I would travel home to Rankin Street, gather my belongings, and possibly have a drink and something to eat, and then travel to my parents home at Blackheath. I would normally leave the Rankin Street address around 5pm. At no time have my previous flatmates ever told me that this person 'JACKO' had ever stayed over on weekends whilst I was not there.

14. I cannot remember the exact dates when I met the person, Jacko, on the three occasions which I have previously mentioned.

Witness: [Signature] Signature: M Higgins MARGARET ANN HIGGINS

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