

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Death of William Antony ROONEY. Place: Wollongong Police Station
 Date: 5 January 1987

Name: John Robert TATE
 (Surname in capitals)
 Address: Wollongong Police Station Tel. No. [REDACTED]
 Occupation: Detective Senior Constable of Police STATES:-

1. I am aware that if I sign this statement and any part of this statement is untrue to my knowledge, I may be liable to punishment.
2. My full name is John Robert TATE. I am a Detective Senior Constable of Police stationed at the Wollongong C.I.B.
3. About 9.30am on Friday 14 February 1986 with Detective Stanley and Fitzgerald I went to the rear of 250 Crown Street Wollongong. There I had a conversation with Constables Tranby and Revitt. There Constable Tranby indicated certain things to me as I observed a small amount of brownish fluid near a concrete retaining wall. A short time later I saw Detective Sergeant Passmore of the Wollongong Scientific Section and together with him I made a further examination of the area. At the completion of that examination I went to the Intensive Care Ward at the Wollongong Hospital.
4. At the Intensive Care Ward at the Hospital I saw the deceased William ROONEY. I observed that he had abrasions to the face and a laceration to the forehead. I also saw bruising to the inside of the left arm and bruising to the area just below the right nipple. There were a number of blood blisters on his right side. There was a 'L' shaped laceration to the right thumb. I also observed considerable bruising to the right knee area. At that time ROONEY was in a coma. I then had a conversation with Doctor Furbur and then returned to the Wollongong Police Station where I made a number of inquiries in an effort to identify the deceased.

Witness:

Signature: J. Tate

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5. During the course of the afternoon of the 14th February 1986 Police attended various licenced establishments in the Wollongong area. At each one of these establishments a photograph of the deceased was shown to both patrons and employees in an effort to identify the deceased.

6. About 7.40pm that same evening a man named Wayne DAVIS of [redacted] Foley's Road Gwynville attended the Wollongong Police Station and informed me of the identity of the deceased person ROONEY. He further stated that he had lived with ROONEY for a period of time and had been with him up until 10pm the evening before. I then caused a statement to be taken from the man DAVIS.

7. As a result of information received from the person DAVIS I went to Annabels Disco Crown Lane Wollongong where I spoke to a number of employees including Murray WATSON and Sandra ROCHE. I was informed by them that they had seen the deceased ROONEY at Annabels sometime after 12mn but they were unable to give an accurate time. I then went to Belmondo's Northbeach International Hotel and spoke to Dean WRIGHT of [redacted] who informed me that he had also seen ROONEY at Annabels sometime around 12mn or later but he too was unable to give an accurate time. I then went to Tattersal Hotel and the Grand Hotel and spoke to employees of those establishments and they informed me that ROONEY had been to both establishments during the evening of the 13th February 1986. After speaking to a number of people an accurate time schedule was unable to be given as to the movements of ROONEY.

8. Further inquiries continued on the 15th February 1986. A number of members of the Gay Community of Wollongong were spoken to but none were prepared to offer any information to the Police.

9. After having completed a number of inquiries and after having

Witness: Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

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viewed both the deceased and the area where he was found and also lengthy discussions with Detective Sergeant PASMORE of the Wollongong Scientific Section I am of the opinion that the person ROONEY was well under the influence of liquor and sustained his injuries as the result of falling.

10 I declare that no part of this statement is untrue to my knowledge. I know that it may be used in legal proceedings. It accurately sets out the evidence I would be prepared to give, if necessary, in court as a witness.

J.R. Tate
.....
J.R. TATE
Detective Senior Constable

Witness: Signature:

