

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Death of Simon Blair WARK.

Place: Regional Crime Squad
South - Homicide.

Date; . 27 January, 1990

Name:

1182 (KN)

Address:

Rosa Street, Oatley, 2223.

Phn. No.;

Occupation: Catholic Priest.

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

4. I am 1182, I am a Roman Catholic Priest, and I presently reside at the above address. I am currently employed as a practicing priest at the Oatley parish. I also lecture in developmental psychology and philosophy. I have been a priest since 1966.

5. I have known the person Simon Blair WARK (whom I always called Blair) for the past 8 years, having first met him as a student at the City Art Institute, in Albion Street, Sydney. Blair at this time was studying world religions. Since that time I have developed a close relationship with Blair, which I would describe as paternal/fraternal. Blair has regularly stayed with me and visited me on numerous occasion. It was usual for me to supply Blair with accommodation when he was between jobs.

Witness;.......... Signed 

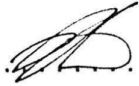

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6. I would describe Blair as a very intelligent young man, who was affable and artistic. In my experience with Blair I am not aware of him using drugs. Blair was subject to changes in his outlook from depression to elation over a very short period. Blair was the type of person who would express his feelings readily. Often Blair suffered from depression, which would manifest itself in mood swings, and in a desire to be with me for comfort. There were many things that contributed to his depression which I think were the results of his frustration at not being accepted as an artist.

7. Blair's relationship with me goes further, and could be described as being homophiliac. This being a strong attraction by a person for a person of the same sex. This differs from homosexuality in that a homophiliac is only attracted to a specific person of the opposite sex. This manifested itself in our relationship by Blair always being around me and behaving like a surrogate son. Blair was also very possessive of me and resented the church for working me too hard. Blair was aware of these feelings and because of this he was trying to work through these feelings by going to a psychiatrist and a psychologist, at my suggestion.

8. At midnight on Friday the 5 January, 1990, Blair telephoned me and was in a very distressed state and was coughing blood (although he did not tell me why he was coughing blood). I told him to go to hospital or, failing that get a taxi and come to me and I would nurse him. Despite staying up and waiting for him, Blair failed to turn up.


Witness;  Signed 

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9. Early on the evening of Saturday the 6 January, 1990, Blair came to my home. I suggested that he go to bed as he did not look well, he was not ill but rather he looked tired and was a little bit distraught. Blair went straight ot bed and the following Sunday, the 7 January, morning I got up and went in to see him. At this time I thought he was going through alcohol withdrawal (Blair was a very heavy drinker), I gave him two small ports and later that morning one codine tablet. Blair said little all morning went out Sunday afternoon to the city, I think to pick up a bag. Upon his return that evening Blair came into my room. Blair was very upset and said to me, "The Triads are looking for me." He then went over to my window and pulled down the blinds. I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him as talking about him. Blair also mention a apartment he was moving into with two other person, which he had since discovered was a 'shooting gallery', which I assumed was a place where drugs were used. On this occasion I told Blair to go back to bed, which he did.

10. On the morning of Monday the 8 January, 1990, Blair rose from bed a different person, he came into my bedroom with some orange juice and sat at the end of the bed and chatted with me about things in general and appeared to have lost all his apprehensions from the previous night. Blair said he had an 8.30am appointment in town and left my house in time to catch a train into town for this appointment. At some time

Witness:.......... Signed [REDACTED]



STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of:.Death of Simon Blair WARK.

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during the weekend, I don't-recall when, I do recall Blair telling me about paying a \$100.00 deposit on an apartment which he was was going to share with [redacted] 1179 and his [redacted] 1179 ') girlfriend. During this conversation Blair asked me to lend him further money to pay the balance of the bond. I declined, although I agreed to give him some money to pay his accounts and to supply him with some pocket money. When I told Blair this he said they will be disappointed (I assumed that to be [redacted] 1179 and his girlfriend). Late on the morning of the 8 January, Blair telephoned me and said,"It's all been worked out." I said,"Have you got your \$100.00?" Blair said,"Thats' not the point."

11. This was the last occasion I spoke to Blair, at at the time of this phone conversation Blair sounded in very good spirits. I later learnt from Blairs' parent of his death.

12. Prior to Bairs death he had on three separate occasions mentioned the subject of suicide to me. The first occasion was some 7 years ago, when he came to me for counselling. At this time I cannot recall his reasons for contemplating suicide, other than he did. I recall that he talked of methods by which he would kill himself. On second occasion he mentions suicide it was about 5 years ago, when he was living with me at Hurstville. He could not cope with life at the time and spoke to me about this subject after he had changed his mind. The last time Blair mentioned suicide to me was, sometime within the fortnight of Blairs' death. Blair was visiting me, I think staying overnight. On this occasion, he did not talk of himself committing

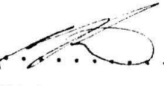
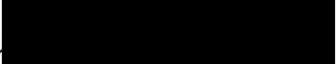
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suicide but rather of suicide in itself. I recall him saying that he thought, "Suicide could be the answer to the problems of life." I recall quoting 'Hamlet' to him and telling him it was not the case and that was the end of the conversation.

13. To my knowledge, Blair had no enemies, nor did he owe any person money.

Witness;  Signed 

M. PLOTECKI
Detective Constable First Class.
RCSS Homicide.
27 January, 1990.

1182