

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Death of Simon Blair WARK.

Place; Regional Crime Squad
South - Homicide

Date; 29 January, 1990.

Name:

1179 (MS)

Address:

[REDACTED], East Sydney. Phn No: None.

Occupation: Painter (Artist)

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 [1179], I am a single man and I reside, in a defacto relationship, at the above address with my girlfriend, [1180]. I am currently self employed as a artist.

5. I was a close friend and associate of the person Simon Blair WARK (whom I knew by the name Blair). I had known Blair for the past 11 years, having met him at Art College. I had been in constant contact with Blair up until the time of his death, seeing him on a daily basis. At the time of his death, Blair was residing at the Prymont Arms Hotel by himself, and was employed as a technical staff officer in the print making department of the City Art Institute.

Witness:.....

Signed:.....

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6. Prior to Blair's death we had made arrangements to move into a flat together at the 'Milton Building', Victoria Street, Kings Cross (I cannot recall which number this flat was). This flat was to be occupied by Blair, myself and 1180. We had been discussing this move for the last 6 months, when a flat in Victoria Street came up. As I criminal record and did not think it was appropriate that I go on the lease, so Blair and 1180 were to sign the lease. We were however to go thirds in the cost of the bond and advance rent, which worked out to be \$78.69 each. I cannot recall the name of the real estate agent but it is located in Victoria Street, opposite Kings Cross Station.

7. On Friday the 5 January, 1990, Blair, 1180 and I went up to Kings Cross to look at this flat. We went to the Crest Hotel, and while I remained there, 1180 and Blair went to the real estate agent and got the key and went to the unit. When they came back, Blair said he wanted to move in. Blair put \$40.00 in for the bond, and he and 1180 went and signed a deposit. As Blair was short of money he said would borrow it from either his father or from 1182 who was a lecturer Blair was good friends with. Blair at this time was excited in the move, however he did say it was a big move for him. I recall him saying that it would start a new phase in his life. Blair was keen to commence working with me with regard to doing artistic works. Blair was very keen on art and had run out of ideas. He was keen to 'produce me', that is he wanted to be an type of agent for my work.

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8. We remained with Blair on that Friday until about 1.30pm, when Blair left. When he left us he was very intoxicated (Blair was a heavy drinker) and in high spirits.

9. About 11am on Saturday the 6 January, 1990, Blair came to my flat in Crown Street. Blair said he could not get his hands on any money (although he did not say at this time if he had asked his father or not), and we would have to wait until Monday or Tuesday. At this time he appeared pissed off. From my experience with Blair I was aware that something was disturbing him and that he was on the verge of tears. Blair assisted me in taking a rental television back to the rental office at the MLC Centre, after which we went to a hotel at the corner of Pitt Street and I think the Park Street. I cannot recall the name of the hotel. Blair was very solemn and depressed, because of this we only stayed a short time, and we then went back to my flat.

10. On getting to my flat, I found 1180 had gone out. Blair and I arrived there some time before 2pm, I am not sure of the time as I normally do not bother to carry a watch. As I said earlier Blair appeared very depress. Our conversation at this time turned to the subject of suicide. Blair and I spoke on this subject often, and frequently Blair would bring up the subject of friends we had had at Art School who had committed suicide. On this particular day Blair and I discussed the death of Martin MOORE, who was a

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particular friend of ours who had committed suicide by jumping off a forty storey building in Melbourne. Blair had always been particularly upset by Martins' death and often spoke of the bravery Martin had in committing suicide.

11. Blair and I then had a discussion about [1182] [1182], and I said that [1182] (who is an alcoholic) was a drunk. I compared [1182] to myself as a heroin addict and commented that Blair would always be hanging around with either of us on the pretext of helping us. From here we got back onto the subject of suicide and discussed it along the terms that [1182] and I were slowly killing ourselves anyway, [1182] with alcohol and myself with drugs.

12. Blair seemed confused at this time and was very drunk, I recall that he mentioned the word 'death' had the word 'eat' in it and he said, "To die is to eat". Shortly after this Blair left the flat. Before leaving we made arrangements to meet at my place between 11am and 12 midday on Monday the 8 January, 1990. This was the last time I saw Blair. I subsequently found out about his death only last Thursday, the 25 January, 1990, from a friend named Angelo, who works security at the Art Institute.

13. To my knowledge, Blair was a homosexual who had a preference for older men. I am also aware that Blair had a long term affair with the person [1182] [1182], which broke up about 6 months ago. This was primarily because [1182] would continually get drunk and bash Blair. I know this as Blair would often

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come over to my place with bruising to the face and would tell me of these bashings. Blair was heartbroken over his break up with 1182 as he treated 1182 like the father he never had. He would often make this comment in reference to 1182.

14. Blair was also obsessed with Michael HUTCHENCE, the lead singer of the pop group 'INXS'. Both Blair and I knew Michael from school and Blair was jealous of Michaels' success and ability to create. I am not aware if Blair has seen Michael recently, however I would doubt it strongly as we no longer mix in the same circles.

15. Before I became aware of Blairs' death I wrote him a letter care of the Prymont Hotel. In this letter, I do make reference to suicide and also say that I cannot picture Blair jumping "rite" now. The reason I wrote this was as a reference to our last conversation and was connected to Blairs' constant obsession with the subject of suicide. Further into the letter, which I wrote whilst under the influence of drugs, I basically have a go at Blair for failing to meet out appointment on the 8th of January, and for letting me down by not moving in with me. At the time also I was fighting with my girlfriend 1180 who is mentioned in the letter.

16. The letter also refers to the drug 'LSD'. When at the Art Institute with Blair, Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period. Since then Blairs' personality has changed and it is from this period that he seem to develop his fascination with death and suicide.