

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Death of Simon Blair WARK.

Place: Regional Crime
South - homicide.
Date: 30 January, 1990


Name: P L O T E C K I Michael Charles.
Address: Regional Crime Squad South, Homicide Tel No.: [REDACTED]
Occupation: Detective Constable of Police 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. My date of birth is [REDACTED].

3. On the afternoon of Sunday the 14 January, 1990, at the Homicide Squad office of the Regional Crime Squad South, I was briefed by Detective Senior Constable DOIG as to the death of the person Simon Blair WARK. I was told that WARK's body had been found floating in Sydney harbour, near Dobrody head on the morning of the 10 January, 1990, and that initial inquiries had lead Police to believe that it was a possible suicide. Clothing and other items belonging to the deceased were located at the gap. An autopsy had been commenced on the deceased on the morning of the 14 January, however there appeared to be bruising around the neck of the body and so the autopsy had been stopped, pending the attendance of Homicide and scientific Police.

Witness:



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4. At 5.30pm, that date, with Detective DOIG, I attended the city morgue and was present whilst and post mortem examination of the body of WARK was carried out by Dr. BRADHURST. Also present at this post mortem were Constable FORD of the water Police and Constables STEWARDSON and KHAOUDAIR of the Police Crime scene unit.

5. During the course of the post mortem, the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column and the left side of the rib cage. A further fracture to the pelvis was also present. Bruising around the neck area of the deceased, which had been detected during an earlier aborted post mortem, was found to have been the result of a spinal fracture at the base of the skull. The liver and a number of internal organs were also found to have sustained damage. Pending the results of forensic tests on tissue matter, Dr. BRADHURST expressed the view that the injuries sustained by the deceased were consistent with a fall from a height.

6. During the course of the post mortem, I was shown the following documents by Constable FORD :-

- * A statement from Constable John COX,
- * A statement from Constable Nichole BROWN,
- * A statement from Ian Anderson WARK, the father of the deceased.
- * A statement from Neil CHAMPION,
- * A P.79A, Report of death to Coroner form,
- * An identification statement for the deceased,
- * A letter from Dr. 1181, to the Coroner and.
- * A letter from Dr Jeffery SLEEP.

Witness:

[Handwritten signature]
Det. Sgt.

Signature:

[Handwritten signature]

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7. On the morning of Monday the 15 January, 1990, I made a number of inquiries and made arrangements with the Police Crime Scene Unit and Constable FORD of the Water Police to photograph the scene at the 'Gap' where the clothing of the deceased had been located.

8. On the morning of Monday the 24 January, 1989, I had cause to contact Mr Ian Anderson WARK by telephone. During my subsequent conversation with Mr. WARK, he expressed concern to me as to the statement he had supplied Police on the 11 January, 1990, and was of the opinion that certain passages in this statement could be elaborated upon. As a result of this conversation, I made a number of inquiries with regard to the persons 1179 and 1182. I also had further conversations with Constable FORD of the water Police.

9. About 10.40am on the 27 January, 1990, at my request, the deceased parents, Ian Anderson WARK and Enid WARK, attended the Homicide Squad office at the Sydney Police Centre. Here I obtained a statement from Mr. WARK, which expanded upon his previous statement of the 11 January, 1990. In this statement, Mr WARK said that his son had lived at home on a infrequent basis over the past 10 years, and at the time of his death had resided at the Prymont Arms Hotel, Harris Street, Prymont. The deceased was employed as a technical officer with the 'City Art institute'. According to Mr WARK his son Blair had recently approached him asking for a loan of \$500-00. He intended to use this money in cost related to moving into a flat with two friends of his, 1179 and 1180 1180. The deceased father declined to lend him the

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money as [1179] was known to him as a drug user. The deceased later contacted his father to say he had been accommodated anyway.

10. Mr WARK states that he was aware of the deceased staying with a priest, [1182] on both Saturday and Sunday nights, the 6th and 7th of January, 1990.

11. On Monday the 8 January, 1990, the deceased came to his parents house at about 12.30pm. At this time he was in a distressed condition. Originally (in his previous statement of the 11 January, 1990) Mr WARK had described as the deceased as appearing to hallucinate, however he now considered that the deceased was displaying signs of fear and indeed was in fear of his life. The deceased told his father, "I really thought it was a real estate agents, I've been stupid, it was a shooting gallery. I've been set up." The deceased went on to say the 'triads' were trying to get him, and he further displayed fear at the names of Michael HUTCHENCE (the lead singer of the pop group INXS) and [1179]. Mr WARK contacted his family doctor, Dr. Glen MARRIOTT, who attended the premises at 1.30pm. The deceased declined to be examined by this doctor, who left shortly after this time. Mr WARK subsequently drove the deceased back to his residence at the Prymont Arms Hotel.

12. The deceased subsequently telephoned his parents house twice that evening and at 12:20am on the 9 January, 1990, arrived at the house by taxi. At this time he appeared calmer he stayed the night and left on foot at 6am that date, telling his parents that he had an appointment

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with his psychologist at 1pm. According to Mr WARK he was aware his son was homosexual, but had no knowledge of any person to whom he was romantically attached. The witness did not know if the deceased used drugs, however he did know that the deceased did drink a good deal.

EXHIBIT I NOW PRODUCE THAT STATEMENT.

13. About 1pm on Saturday the 27 January, 1990, at the Homicide Squad office I spoke to [182], a Catholic priest. At this time [182] was in company with the person William Joseph GORMAN, of [REDACTED] Mortdale, a retired solicitor. In a statement made by [182], he told Police that he had known the deceased for about 8 years and that he regularly allowed him to stay at his residence at Oatley. [182] described his relationship with the deceased as one in which the deceased was 'homophilic', that being that the deceased had a strong attraction to him ([182]). This attraction differing from a homosexual attraction in that it was an attraction to a specific person of the same sex. [182] declined to comment further as to the relationship.

14. [182] states that the deceased contacted him by phone on the evening for Friday the 5 January, 1990, claiming that he was coughing blood and in an apparent distressed state. [182] advised WARK to go to hospital or come over. Despite waiting up for him WARK failed to turn up. On the evening of the 6 January, 1990, Blair went to [182]'s' house, appearing tired and distraught. He stayed that night and the next morning displayed signs to the

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priest of alcoholic withdrawal. In the evening of that day, the deceased told [182] that the Triads were looking for him. According to [182] the deceased often invented stories and he ([182]) considered this to be one of these stories. The deceased also mentioned a shooting gallery to [182], which he claimed was an apartment he was to have moved into with two other persons.

15. The deceased left [182]'s residence the next morning, in apparent good spirits and was not seen again by this witness, although he did telephone him late on the morning of the 8 January, 1990. At this time he still sounded in high spirits.

16. According to [182], the deceased had discussed suicide with him on three occasions over the past 7 years. Most recently being about 2 weeks prior to his death. On this occasion [182] recalls the deceased saying 'Suicide could be the answer to the problems of life.'

EXHIBIT I NOW PRODUCE THAT STATEMENT.

17. At 3pm on Saturday the 27 January, I had a short conversation with the persons [179] and [180] [180] and made certain arrangements for them to obtain a statement from these persons.

18. On Monday the 29 January, 1990, at about 2.30pm, at the Sydney Police Centre, I saw the person [179]. I obtained a statement from this person. In this statement, [179] told me that he had been an associate of the deceased for the past 11 years, seeing him on an almost

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daily basis. He confirmed that he and his girlfriend, [1180] were to move into a flat together with the deceased at the Milton building, in [REDACTED], Potts Point, and supplied details of this arrangement. He further said that the deceased and his girlfriend inspected the flat on Friday the 5 January, 1990, and that the deceased and his girlfriend were to sign the lease as he had a criminal record. [1179] again saw the deceased on Saturday the 6 January, 1990 at his residence at [REDACTED], at which time the deceased informed him that he had not got the necessary money for the bond on the flat (he had intended to borrow this money from his father, Ian WARK or from [1182]). The deceased at this time was very upset and depressed. Later in the afternoon, they had a number of discussions, in which the topic turned to suicide, during which the deceased said, 'to die is to eat.' He left shortly after this, with arrangements being made between them that they would meet on Monday the 8 January, 1990, so arrangements could be made over the flat they planned to move into at Potts Point. [1179] claims not to have seen the deceased again and only became aware of his death on the 25 January, 1990.

19. [1179] was aware the deceased was a homosexual and that he had a long term affair with the priest [1182], which broke up about 6 months previous to WARK's death. According to [1179] the deceased was 'heartbroken' over this relationships termination. The deceased was also obsessed with the lead singer of the pop group INXS, Michael HUTCHENCE, whom he knew from school.

20. [1179] was also questioned as to the contents of a letter he had sent the deceased care of the Prymont Arms

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Hotel, and which was dated the 17 January, 1990. In this letter reference is made to suicide, drugs and relationships of priest to young men. [1179] makes reference to the drug LSD, which he claimed the deceased use to sell and use at Art College over a two year period.

21. During the course of obtaining this statement from the person [1179], I asked him if he was also a homosexual. As a result of this suggestion, [1179] became upset and the interview was subsequently terminated. I made arrangement for [1179] to attend the office the next day, when he had composed himself, to complete the statement. Since that time I have been contacted by Mr Ben SLADE of the Redfern Legal Service, who has informed me the [1179] does not wish to complete or sign the statement prepared during our interview.

EXHIBIT I NOW PRODUCE THAT STATEMENT.

22. At 9.30am on Wednesday the 31 January, 1990, I had a telephone conversation with Dr. Glen Donald MARRIOTT, of [REDACTED] 'The Centre', Forresterville, Phn No. [REDACTED]. Dr. MARRIOTT told me that he had gone to Ian WARKS' home address in Frenches Forrest, at his request on Monday the 8 January, 1990. At the time of his attendance, the deceased was in a very distressed condition. The deceased is not a regular patient of the doctors and he had not previously seen or treated him. The Doctor was told by the decease that 'every thing was fine' and that he did not wish to be treated. According to Dr. MARRIOTT, the deceased displayed 'pressure of speech', that being he had

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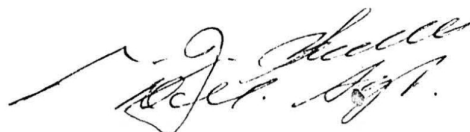
flights of ideas, which made it difficult to follow what the deceased was talking about. The Doctor was of the opinion that the deceased was suffering from pre-psychosis and was a possible manic depressant. Dr. MARRIOTT was unable to determine if this condition was the result of drug abuse or a physical condition. Dr. MARRIOTT said he was available for a statement if required.

23. At 2pm on Wednesday the 31 January, 1990, I attended the offices of O'Connor Nielsen Real Estate Agents, situated at 212 Victoria Street, Kings Cross. Here I spoke to Miss Lorraine COOPER. She informed me that the deceased and the female [180] had attended their office on Friday the 5 January, 1990, and had inspected a flat at [REDACTED], Potts Point, which they wished to rent. After inspecting the flat, these persons left a deposit of \$100-00, and completed an 'Application of Tenancy'. Miss Cooper said the deceased was a very quite man at the time he attended her office and noticed nothing out of the usual. On the 8 January, 1990, she was contacted by [180] who said that she was unable to find the deceased and therefore could not take the flat.

EXHIBIT I NOW PRODUCE THAT APPLICATION FOR TENANCY.

24. On this date I also contacted the Chameleon hair Saloon, 175 King Street, Sydney and spoke to rosmary KLIMES, a hairdresser. She recalls cutting the hair of the deceased on Monday the 8 January, 1990. She said he appeared quiet and slightly depress. She stated he gave the impression of 'not quite being there' in the way he spoke. The deceased left this saloon at 11.45am this

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time being confirmed on a cash register ticket found with
the deceased possessions at the gap.

Witness:


N. SMITH

Detective Sergeant,
Regional Crime Squad South Homicide Squad.
31 January, 1990.

Signature:


M. PLOTECKI.