

Frenchs Forest

NSW 2086

May 04, 1990.

Mr Kevin Waller,
Coroner,
New South Wales Coroners Courts,
42 Parramatta Road,
Glebe 2037.



Dear Sir,

Re: Death of SIMON BLAIR WARK.

(Preferred name: Blair.)

The main reason that we bring the following questions to your attention is that we are concerned that they may have been lost in communication breakdowns between police, during police investigations over the last four months.

Having seen and spoken with Blair (our son and brother respectively) only hours before his death neither of us believe that he committed suicide. Blair was so frightened for his life on Monday, January 08, 1990 (and possibly even earlier than that date). Why then would he take it the following day?

You may wonder why it has taken so long to compose and send this communication to you. Although the Water Police (who originally handled the case) and South Division Homicide have been investigating Blair's death there have been several setbacks. Various delays caused by holidays, over work and the lack of investigated documentation may have meant that some information from interviews taken by water police was not passed on to homicide detectives. This is not a criticism of the people heading the investigations, perhaps though it is questioning the system itself. Not wanting to cut across the police system we have been hesitant in writing to you. After speaking with Kay Thonick at the Coroner's Office in early April we are now writing to be sure that you are aware of various possible inconsistencies we believe the case holds.

The following is a discussion of some points that we believe are not easily answerable and that require consideration, and possible further investigation.

Blair's body was found with no identification. When his wallet and spectacles were found some clothes were also found- a new shirt, new belt and new handkerchief. The receipts for these new clothes were from David Jones city store on 09.01.90. The fashion of the shirt was not at all similar to anything that we would expect Blair to buy, the belt was not either. He was a leather worker and made his own belts, bags etc. He seldom carried handkerchiefs. Money was at a premium to Blair, we do not believe that he had access to

funds for the purchase of the clothes. If Blair was given the money, who by, when and what do they know. When he left the family home he had borrowed \$20 the previous evening to pay his taxi fare and a further \$10 when he left on tuesday morning.

A bag containing some of Blair's property was handed into David Jones lost property in the Market Street store. If it was Blair who handed the bag in, why? The receipt for the bag was in his wallet. I, (Rebecca) called a merchandise manager at D.J's, her name is Catie Daniels. She was helpful and we ascertained that the receipt was for something handed in at lost property. I spoke with her on Monday, January 15, 1990. On the afternoon of January 16 I went to David Jones. Lost property is in the Market Street building, not at all easy to find. We do not believe that if Blair was suicidal and irrational he would have the reason or patience to take the bag there and gain a receipt. I identified items in the bag as belonging to Blair and the bag was released to me. Items in the bag, on the whole, seemed typical of those you would take on a short trip, a few changes of clothes, alarm clock, watch, shaving kit and towel. Amongst the items were the jeans, underwear and belt that Blair was wearing when he left the family home early on Tuesday, January 09, 1990. The jeans were wet and neatly folded into a new Grace Bros. bag. The weather was rainy, where were his other wet clothes? They were not found at his residence. The jeans that were found on Blair's body were apparently new (according to Water Police). If this seems unclear to you it is to us as well.

Presumably Blair died on January, 09, 1990. The reason that the bag was not collected until January 16 was that when the receipt was mentioned to the investigating police officer, Lisa Ford, she did not seem interested. When the bag was finally collected on our initiative Const. Ford was contacted. She was off duty when first called but was informed on January 20. She still did not seem interested. When the statement was given (by Rebecca) to Detective Plotecki he asked why he did not know of the bag. Presumably it is because Const. Ford had not informed him. Perhaps she thought that we were too emotionally involved and were looking for excuses for Blair's death. We believe that since Blair's death we have remained "open-minded" and listened to all facts that have been revealed to us.

Why was Blair so frightened on Monday January 08.1990. He believed that someone was trying to kill him. Father [1182] saw Blair on Monday morning. He told us that Blair seemed fine when he left him. What happened to Blair and disturbed him between when he left [1182]'s and when he arrived in Frenchs Forest?

Who is [1181], a psychologist that Blair had visited? She told us on Tuesday evening (over a telephone conversation) that Blair arrived for a 1pm appointment but that the housekeeper had unknowingly locked him out. How did she know that Blair had turned up for the appointment if she was out and the housekeeper did not see him. She later told police that Blair did turn up, didn't have

an appointment and that the housekeeper had let him in. Why did she change her story?

Father [182], a close friend of Blairs, had been in contact with us frequently between Monday, January 08 and Thursday, January 11. [182] called on Thursday morning, very distressed. He said that someone, purporting to be [179] had called him. He was very vague but thought that the phone caller wanted money and talked about Blair. We believe that [182] told Lisa Ford of this phone call but that it was not relayed to homicide, either by water police or by [182].

Why did the police not contact Blair's regular physician, Dr Goldbaum? He had prescribed anti-depressants to Blair. The police were aware of this but to the best of our knowledge have not taken a statement from him, or spoken with him.

Our family doctor, Dr Glenn Marriott, attended Blair on Monday January, 08, 1990. He has not been asked for a statement by the police. Why?

Phillip Spiller, a personal friend of Blair's, believes that he has information regarding his last meeting with Blair (January 02, 1990) that may interest the police. The police are aware of this but have not contacted him.

To the best of our knowledge Blair's place of work, The City Art

Institute at Paddington, has not been contacted. Ken Valentine knew Blair quite well, was his immediate boss and also knows 1179 1179. Why have the police not contacted him, or anyone else that may have seen Blair at work on Monday, January 08, 1990?

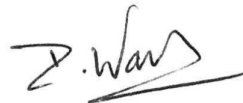
It is likely that much of this information has been passed on to you by the police. However, if it has not been we hope that this has been of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,



Enid M. Wark.

(S.B.Wark's mother)



Rebecca S. Wark.

(S.B.Wark's sister)