

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Invest into death of Richard Place: Criminal Investigation Branch  
SLATER - NEWCASTLE.  
Date: 24th May, 1981.

Name: CLARK Robert Ross  
Address: Police Station, Newcastle. Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: Detective Sergeant of Police. STATES:—

1. About 1.15pm on Friday, 19th December, 1980, I went with Detective Senior Constable Guyatt, to Birdwood Park, King Street, Newcastle. There we went to the men's toilet where we spoke to Sergeant 1st Class Marsh and Sergeant 3rd Class Power. An ambulance was in attendance. Detective Guyatt and Sergeant Power then commenced to search the immediate area.

2. A short time later, the paramedics, who had been treating the deceased inside the toilet, with the aid of Police placed the deceased in the ambulance.

3. I saw that the deceased suffering from contusions and abrasions to the face and eyes, there was a large amount of blood on his face and hair, this blood appeared to be dry. There was a large area of blood on the left side of his head in the vicinity of his ear. Whilst the deceased was in the ambulance, I said to him, "What is your name"? He said, "Dick Slater". I said, "What happened"? He said, "Nothing". I said, "Who bashed you"? He said, "I wasn't bashed, I didn't fall over". The ambulance then left and the deceased was conveyed to the A.R.A. at Royal Newcastle Hospital.

4. I then went inside the mens' toilet. I saw a large area of blood on the floor of the toilet near the urinal. I also saw spots of blood about the walls of the toilet. A search of the interior of the toilet was made however, no weapon or implement was found. A short time later Detective Clausen of the Newcastle Scientific Investigation Section arrived and took a number of photographs and made other inquiries.

5. I then went with Detective Guyatt to the Royal Newcastle Hospital, there I had a conversation with Dr. Bennett. I was later handed the clothing worn by the deceased by nursing staff. The only property, apart from the clothing found on the deceased was a set of car keys

Witness: and two lottery tickets, Signature: R. R. Clark

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with the exception of the keys, I retained these items and later handed them to Detective Clausen.

6. I then went to the bed where the deceased was lying, I again attempted to speak to him concerning his injuries, however, I was unable to obtain any cohesive information from the deceased as to how he came by those injuries. Detective Clausen then attended that Hospital and took a series of photographs of the deceased. Arrangements were then made for the relatives of the deceased to be informed, and later that date Mrs. Slater attended the Hospital.

7. The deceased was then admitted to the Royal Newcastle Hospital. At the time of his admission his condition was described as 'stable'. The deceased remained a patient in the hospital until his death on the 22nd December, 1980. Whilst he was in that Hospital because of his dis-orientated state he was unable to be interviewed.

8. Police inquiries to date have failed to ascertain how the deceased suffered the injuries at the Birdwood Park toilet on the 19th December, 1980.

9. At 10pm on 22nd December, 1980, Dr. L. Banathy, Regional Government Forensic Pathologist conducted a post mortem examination upon the deceased.

10. Police inquiries have established that the deceased left his home at [REDACTED] Cooks Hill, sometime between 12nd and 12.20pm, in his Valiant sedan motor vehicle [REDACTED]. At the time of his leaving his home he was in possession of around \$30.00 in notes and coins, which were contained in a clasp type ladies purse which he normally carried money. It was his intention of purchasing groceries. His vehicle was found parked in King Street on the southern kerb near the intersection of National Park Street, Newcastle West. It is thought that the deceased drove his vehicle to that location, parked it and then walked to the 'Store' Hunter Street, where he purchased a 'Jackpot' and a 'Special' Lottery ticket. He obtained these tickets from Leskey Ann WINKWORTH, who could only state that those tickets purchased by the deceased would have been purchased sometime between 12nd and 1.30pm on 19th December, 1980.

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11. It was the deceased's usual practise when shopping to carry a cardboard carton in his motor vehicle which he used to carry the items. When the vehicle was located it was locked with no sign of it having been interfered with. The grocery box was empty, and it is therefore thought that the deceased had not obtained the groceries he intended to purchase.

12. It is thought that the deceased parked his motor vehicle in King Street, then walked to 'The Store' where he obtained the lottery tickets, he then left the 'Store' with the intention of walking to the West End Shopping Centre (near where the vehicle was parked) to obtain the groceries. After leaving the store he used the men's toilet at Birdwood Park, where he obtained those injuries. At the time the deceased was suffering from a medical condition (prostate) and it was difficult for him to travel any distance without urinating.

13. The deceased was found injured in the toilet about 1pm that date, by a Brother Maseo (Arthur Geoffrey Clements) and then Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sydney Archer. These persons then caused the ambulance and Police to be notified.

14. The deceased's clothing and other exhibits were forwarded to the Division of Forensic Medicine, where an examination and tests were conducted by analyst, Sandra CORRINGE.  
I PRODUCE HER CERTIFICATE OF THAT EXAMINATION.

15. To date, despite Police inquiries into the death of Richard SLATER, no person has been charged in relation to the cause of his death. A reward in the sum of \$50,000 has been offered by the Government of New South Wales for information leading to the conviction of the person/s responsible. A considerable number of persons have been interviewed by Police but no definite suspect has emerged.

*R. R. Clark*

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_