

Case 2 - Basic Overview of RATH part 1/2

File Number: 228
Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note
Date of Note: 20 Jun 2016
Brief Description: The discovery of the deceased Paul RATH at the bottom of Fairy Bower cliffs, Manly on the 15/06/1977.

RATH was located at the bottom of the cliffs at Fairy Bower, Manly on the 16/06/1977 by Alfred BARRETT, a fisherman who was walking along the base of the cliff.(ST-614)

The deceased was last seen at his home by his brother Gregory RATH at 4.30pm on the 15th June 1977.(ST-615)

Investigation into the location of the deceased was conducted by Constable Ross PARRY of Manly Police. PARRY was directed to the cliff by BARRETT where he noticed the deceased wedged between rocks in a sitting position with his head between his legs and his pants around his knees. A prose was located in the deceased jacket pocket (ST612).

The deceased was known by his family to go for walks to calm his nervous condition. He walked frequently to the cliffs at Fairy Bower as he remarked on previous occasions how beautiful it was. (ST-616)

The deceased had long been treated for a schizophrenic disorder under Dr REICHARD and was taking medication for this (OD-372). The deceased father, Elwyn RATH, stated the deceased was a clumsy person and recently to his death complained of aching legs. Elwyn also stated he and his wife were certain beyond doubt the deceased would not have taken his life as it was contrary to his religious beliefs(ST-616).

There was an inquest before the coroner on the 16/09/1977 where Ray HENRY found the deceased died of the effects of multiple injuries sustained then and there when he fell accidentally onto rocks at the foot of a cliff. (OD-367)

The inquest conducted by Ray HENRY stated "on the evidence, there are no suspicious circumstances, and I formally find there is no Prima Facie case, against any person for an indictable offence." (OD-368)

Case 2 - Basic Overview of RATH part 2/2

File Number: 229
Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note
Date of Note: 20 Jun 2016
Brief Description: A two page article written by Ava BENNY-MORRISON and was featured in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper on the June 5 2016 titled:

"Sydney's gay hate bias review: "I feel in my heart someone didn't push him"

The article states. "Almost 40 years on, his death is one of 88 being reviewed by NSW Police for any signs that his demise -deemed a misadventure in 1977 - was motivated by gay hate."

Mr Rath's death happened near a gay beat at Manly's north head, however there was no indication the 27-year-old catechist was homosexual (OD-330).

As stated in the article "In some cases, the victim wasn't homosexual, may have committed suicide or died near a known gay beat." (OD-330)

There are 5 photographs available of the crime scene. There are no entries on COPS. There are no markings graffiti or drawings.